

A temple at Fenghuangling awaits the return of an ancient stone Buddha.

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Meet artist Alberto Giacometti through the black and white photos of Ernst Scheidegger.

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Jia Jun seeks balance between her baby care center and her own child.

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By Xiao Rong

Never before has Wangfujing, Beijing's celebrated "Golden Street", been the focus of such a distinguished international assemblage as that gathered here last weekend.

The Wangfujing World Famous Commercial Streets Seminar was held with the aim of promoting the city's strategy of rejuvenating the famous commercial street while retaining its essential character.

Representatives from 13 of the world's most prestigious commercial streets, including the Champs-Élysées, Fifth Avenue and Oxford Street, were invited to share their valuable experiences in the development of commercial streets.

Delegates declared their intention to strengthen interaction among the 14 streets by regularly holding such seminars in other cities by turn, and helping one another to promote their streets. These aims were formally set out in the Wangfujing Manifesto, signed on the first day of the seminar.

Illuminating Suggestions

Some of the dignitaries who were visiting Beijing for the first time were quickly won over by the old commercial street.

"I had no idea how spectacular Wangfujing would be. I was so impressed — I did not know how advanced, how fabulous the balance between the stores, the enthusiasm of the merchants, the design of the buildings, the quality of the merchandise would be," exclaimed Ralph Destino, president of New York's Fifth Avenue Association.

For Helmut Mondschein, marketing manager of Vienna's Kaerntner Street, it was the fifth visit to Beijing, but the first to Wangfujing.

"The city has changed so much, the differences between four years ago and today are marvelous. This was my first time, however, to visit Wangfujing Street," he said. "The street has excellent public spaces and pedestrian areas. I am also impressed by its combination of traditional Chinese culture with modern brand names."

What stood out most about the advice offered by the visitors on ways to improve Wangfujing, was its diversity. Helmut Mondschein stressed that care should be taken when transforming the old buildings. "I think the individuality of a commercial street lies mostly in family-owned shops rather than brand names," he said. "For Wangfujing, it's not necessary to introduce lots of brand names, as customers won't be able to tell if they are in Beijing, Vienna, or other major cities, if every street is filled with luxury brands."

Ralph Destino, however, held the view that attracting more top brand names is the key for Wangfujing to becoming a world-class business street.

"To reach the level of world class, Wangfujing has to attract more of the top names you see in Paris, New York and elsewhere. Add those names to the collection you already have and that will create the finished picture of a fully-balanced street," he suggested.

Meanwhile Kevin Wee, from the delegation of Singapore's Orchard Road emphasized the importance of striking a balance between old and new. "We are trying to become as modern as possible, but at the same time, preserve our legacy, by striking a balance between constructing new buildings and keeping old ones. And we try to make sure that old buildings to be protected are safe, so they can be used as retail businesses and hotels, not only as museums," he said.

Golden Street Maps Out Development Strategy

Leading World Commercial Streets Meet on Wangfujing



Delegates from the 13 commercial streets sample Wangfujing

Xinhua Photo

Unique Culture

"It has proven to be a successful seminar, from which Wangfujing has greatly benefited," commented Li Jun, vice director of the Administrative Department of the Wangfujing Administrative Committee.

He mentioned several suggestions that had deeply impressed the organizing committee.

"Ms. Dominique Rodet from the Champs-Élysées said that more entertainment services should be added to Wangfujing Street. Tourists and locals can enjoy a diverse choice of entertainment until late into the night on the Champs-Élysées, while in Wangfujing nearly everything closes as early as 10 o'clock."

Advice from Mr. Destino of Fifth Avenue, was also quite illuminating, said Li.

"He said each avenue should boast its unique culture, for example, romance and fashion are the first reactions of visitors to the Champs-Élysées. Wangfujing should also have its own style."

Destino's idea that it is luxury brand names that have built up the reputation of Fifth Avenue, is also quite useful to help Wangfujing to relocate itself, Li added.

All these highly valuable views are beneficial for Wangfujing to make clear

its long-term upgrading strategy.

"The warm response and positive comments of foreign guests have strengthened our confidence in the influence and advantages of Wangfujing," Li told *Beijing Today*.

But it's only a starting point for the progress of Wangfujing, as we are more aware of the gap between world top commercial streets and Wangfujing through comparison, he emphasized.

Continuing Improvements

"The seminar is only one of the key stages in the process of the development of Wangfujing area, and it has strengthened some of our original beliefs in the upgrade strategy," said Li Jun. "We have been inviting experts on municipal planning to map out a long-term comprehensive program on the basis of our key principals."

To achieve this goal, Li believes it is crucial to adjust the management structure to allow Wangfujing to change from a primarily shopping market into an advanced, multi-function area incorporating shopping, dining, entertainment, tourism, and exhibitions and cultural events.

"The evolution of each of the world's major commercial streets has taken a long time. Wangfujing is no different in that respect," Li concluded.

High-tech Expo Closes on High Note

By Xiao Rong

The fifth China Beijing International High-tech Expo came to a close Tuesday with the announcement of the establishment of the First Strategic Cooperation Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee is aimed at setting up a comprehensive service platform for high-tech development in Beijing to promote the commercialization, industrialization and internationalization of high-tech products around the world.

Vice Mayor Zhang Mao announced seven international organizations and enterprises that will be honored as the first members of the committee: Comdex, Ericsson, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Qualcomm, Italy's International Information and Telecommunications Technology Expo, the Utah Division of Business and Economic Development, and Zurich Financial Services Group.

"It is our conviction that with the extensive involvement and support of the international community, the Beijing High-tech Expo will soon become a well-known model of international expos," said Barbara J. Powers, a member of the organizing committee of Comdex.

Contracts for 18 projects were also signed at the closing ceremony, bringing the grand total of contracts and letters of intention signed during the expo up to 397.

The value of the 397 project agreements signed during the expo reached \$7.35 billion, 96.9 percent of which are investment agreements worth \$7.12 billion. One hundred thirty-three projects, or 77.5 percent of the total, are in the Beijing area and are worth \$5.7 billion.

Beijing Today undertakes responsibility for publishing *Beijing High-tech Expo Daily*. See page 4.

Evolution of Wangfujing Street

Running north from the Avenue of Eternal Peace, just east of the Imperial Palace, Wangfujing Avenue can be dated back to around 1260. In the early 15th century, during the Ming Dynasty, mansions of princes and princesses were built along the street, and so it came to be known

as Wangfu, or Imperial Mansion Street. In 1905, the character *jing*, meaning "well" was added, after a spring containing sweet tasting water was found.

By the 1920s, Wangfujing Street had become one of Beijing's major commercial districts, along with Xidan,

Qianmen and Dongdan.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, great changes have occurred along Wangfujing Street. Shoppers can find traditional Chinese brand names like Tongshenghe and Qianjude, alongside modern international labels at Xin Dongan Market and Oriental Plaza.

The first two phases of an on-going renovation of the street was completed in September 2000, creating a "Golden Cross" where Wangfujing intersects with Jinyu Hutong, with a hotel street on the eastern side, a snack street to the west, an 810-meter pedestrian mall to the south and a cultural and entertainment zone in the north.



A World Cup carnival will kick off at 6 o'clock tonight in Lianhuahu Park, east of Beijing's West Railway Station.

Fans can watch the opening ceremony tonight on three giant TV screens. The carnival will run from 12:30 pm to 10:30 pm daily, ending on June 30. Admission is 10 yuan.

Photo by Zhuang Jian

EDITOR: LIU FENG DESIGNER: PANG LEI

Info Building to Front Digital Beijing

By Yue Ming/Feng Yihua

Beijing is planning to construct the "Olympic Digital World," a sign of the information development for the 2008 Olympics, said Yan Guanhe, vice-director of the Beijing Informationization Office at the China Beijing High-tech Expo (CBHT).

Yan Guanhe announced the news on Monday at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games & Related Construction Projects Briefing, part of this year's CBHT.

The unique architectural style of the "Olympic Digital World" will represent the ideals of the "Digital Olympics" and "Digital Beijing" campaigns. The multi-functional building will include technology, database, resources and Internet management centers.

The facility will be able to be used in other ways after the Olympics, such as a command center for major events

held by the Beijing and Chinese governments and as an information management center for "Digital Beijing."

The "Digital Olympics" is a systematic project for the adoption of global information standards in Beijing and a part of the city government's promise to hold a "Scientific and Technical Olympics".

"Anyone will be able to access the fast, affordable, effective and safe customized information services supplied," said Yan.

The Beijing government will invest 180 billion yuan in infrastructure construction for the Olympics, 30 billion yuan of which will be used for informationization construction, including rudimental e-government, e-commerce and long-distance education. Breakthroughs will also be made in other important IT fields, such as software, integrated circuits and optical fiber telecommunications.

Local Tax Authority Locks on High Earners

By Zhong Hongyi

The Local Taxation Bureau of Beijing has shifted its focus to individuals that earn annual incomes of 100,000 yuan or more, saying they will be the priority targets for individual income taxes.

There are an estimated 30,000 people in the city that earn that much annually.

The Haidian branch of the Beijing local taxation bureau conducted a survey last year at 62 foreign funded ventures and found 5,073 individuals with annual incomes over the 100,000 yuan mark.

Haidian is home to a high-tech science park, in which many foreign funded enterprises are concentrated in an area surrounding Peking University and Tsinghua University. Officials of the Haidian Taxation Bureau

branch said that the average annual income of Chinese employees in these foreign-funded enterprises is 260,000 yuan and these high earners should pay 42,000 yuan in taxes each year.

"We have built up 10,044 personal income files on these high income earners," said an official of the branch who requested anonymity.

The Beijing Taxation Bureau claims it will open tools for filing individual tax online later this year. Individuals with high incomes will be the main targets of the system. Moreover, the municipal taxation bureau has learned from the efforts of the Haidian branch, and is setting up a similar personal file system based on individual ID numbers, income figures and sources of income, with the intention of improving the process of tax collection.

Clinton Forks out Big Bucks for Taxes in Shenzhen

By Wang Xu/Shan Jinliang

Former US President Bill Clinton was identified as having paid taxes on the proceeds of a speech he gave in Shenzhen on May 23, said a top official of the city's local taxation bureau on Monday.

At the invitation of Shenzhen Jingji Real Estate Development Corp and *Newsweek*, the former president attended the "2002 Shenzhen Jingji Forum on the WTO and China's Economy".

Following his one-hour speech at the forum, many local and national reporters began to question the large amount of tax Clinton had to pay. In an interview with *Beijing Youth Daily*, Mr. Dong, director of the Shenzhen Local Taxation Bureau Office, first denied reports that Clinton earned US\$250,000 for the speech.

"The Shenzhen local taxation bureau paid careful attention to the tax Clinton had to pay, and dispatched officials to the hosting company to charge the tax," said Dong. "According to the investigation conducted by our official of our no.2 sub-bureau, Clinton was paid US\$150,000 and the other US\$100,000 went to event staff, the hotel and air tickets."

Dong added, "So, the pay for the speech was converted into 1.23 million

yuan, and the necessary tax was calculated to be 388,600 yuan according to the correct tax rate under China Individuals' Income Tax Law."

In response to questions about whether the US\$150,000 was paid before being taxed or after taxes were taken out, Mr. Zhong, a manager at Jingji Real Estate who did not want his full name used, said, "the contract clearly shows the US\$150,000 was paid after being taxed." Regarding the US\$100,000 of expenses for the event, Zhong said, "We offered Clinton accommodation of a presidential standard, and to ensure his security, Clinton hired body guards, which raised expenses."

Some onlookers were disappointed by Clinton's speech, as he avoided answering questions from the audience on such subjects as the Middle East and Sino-US relations. On the website people.com, others speculated that the speech was a totally commercialized activity for its organizer, Jingji Real Estate, which earned several hundred thousand dollars from the event.

Famous international figures have taken part in several events in Shenzhen, including golf superstar Tiger Woods, who still holds the record for the largest tax payment made to the local government.



Gu Zhengquan, driver of a Benz 100 Minibus for Silver Petroleum Corp. lost his ability to work after an accident in Gansu Province this February. No one wants to drive the bus now, even after repairs.

Xinhua photo

Ban Slapped on Import, Sale of Benz Buses

By Shan Jinliang

Chinese authorities suspended the sale and import of Mercedes-Benz MB 100 Minibuses made in South Korea on May 23 because of a serious design flaw in their braking system.

This ban comes as another blow to Benz in recent months, following a domestic media frenzy over the smashing of a Benz car by its owner in Wuhan as a result of alleged quality problems in December last year.

The suspension notice, issued by China's State Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, asked users of the 12-seat vehicles to send the buses to maintenance centers as soon as possible. The administration has told Mercedes-Benz to recall the vehicles in line with internationally accepted practices, and it is considering lifting the imported products' safety license.

The faulty brake design surfaced after

two people died and one was seriously injured in a crash of a MB 100 minibus in Gansu Province on February 10.

Local administrations in Gansu found the same defect in 29 MB 100 buses and reported their findings to the state administration. After a careful check of the vans, the administration and other experts confirmed the defects existed and posed significant safety risks, so they notified domestic quality inspection departments to stop importing Mercedes-Benz vans.

Incomplete and unofficial statistics show that out of the 2,076 Benz MB buses checked by local inspection administrations in 2000, 1,706 have been taken for repairs. Around 11.37% have been found to have the same problem, which in some cases is a result of poor domestic road conditions.

On the same day the state administration issued the notice, Benz put out a statement regarding MB100 Minibuses, saying that it is very rare for

such problems to arise, and they can only be the result of bad roads or overloading. On Tuesday, *China Economic Times* ran an article stating these so-called rare problems crop up in around 10% of the buses on the market.

The introduction also notified all Benz MB 100 users to take their vehicles to maintenance centers for a free inspection. A few service centers designated by Daimler Chrysler have been instructed to replace the brakes on customers' buses.

A top official of the China Consumers' Association encouraged users of the MB vehicles to file complaints with their local consumers' associations because the vehicles qualify as defective products according to state regulations. The official also said the association will maintain the right to conduct further investigations into whether the company tried to hide the design defects and ignored this safety hazard.



Foreign investors take a close look at the Sanxingdui exhibition in the 2002 Western China International Expo

Xinhua photo

Sanxingdui Seeks Foreign Cash

By Pang Qingjuan

Sanxingdui, an ancient cultural site with a history of 3,000 years, made its first promotions of its development projects valued at US\$2.5 billion to the world at the ongoing 2002 Western China International Expo in Chengdu, Sichuan province, on Sunday.

Plans call for the construction of a reproduction of an ancient kingdom and sites for high-tech development in the area. An American company affiliated to American Global Film Co. and a Japanese financial giant have shown interest in the project, especially in its technology aspects. Both companies have submitted letters of intent to invest to the committee in charge of the Sanxingdui program and are pushing to sign cooperation agreements.

The project will result in the construction of a comprehensive cultural, technological and tourism-ready industrial park. The local government has divided the site into two areas, one for the preservation of relics and the other for development. The development program will focus on the 10-square-kilometer eastern part of the site, while the other 12 square kilometer area will be kept under government protection.

CAAC Changes Leadership after Accidents

By Zhao Hongyi

Yang Yuanyuan replaced Liu Jianfeng as director-general of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) on May 20 in the wake of the crashes of two Chinese civilian planes in the past month. An official public announcement of the change was issued May 27 in Beijing.

According to the announcement, Liu, 66, is already at an appropriate age to retire and was effective in his four year tenure in the position. However, rumors still link his retirement to the crash of an Air China plane in South Korea in April and a following crash of a China Northern Airlines' aircraft in Dalian

this month.

Liu, once the Communist Party secretary of Hainan province, held a number of other important positions in central ministries being assigned to the CAAC. He was criticized in the past for setting inappropriate regulations that forbid price cuts on domestic airline tickets.

New director-general Yang Yuanyuan promises to continue focusing on the issue of flight safety, and has shown his activeness in external affairs as well. He sent condolences to the chairman of Taiwan Province's China Airlines over the crash of one of the airline's planes in the Taiwan Straits this month.

Shoes Subject to Security Searches

By Gao Shan/Shan Jinliang

Starting May 22, civilian air passengers at Beijing International Airport who set off metal detectors while going through security checks will be asked to take off their shoes for further inspection.

Shoes taken off will be scanned by metal detectors and X-ray machines.

Passengers who wear heavy sneakers and leather shoes often set off security alarms. Security staff have found some people with foil in their shoes to protect the shoes' shape. This added security measure is intended to prevent forbidden items as knives from being taken onto airplanes,

according to the Capital Airport's security department.

Plushly-carpeted wooden platforms will be provided at security check areas for the comfort of passengers that have to remove their shoes.

This new shoe-checking policy has also taken effect in the Chengdu Shuangliu Airport, Dalian Zhoushuizi International Airport, Xi'an Xianyang International Airport, Shenzhen Baoan International Airport and Wuhan Tianhe International Airport.

These airports report that security checks have been going slower since the implementation of the shoe inspection policy.



China News Service photo

EDF Sets Up Asia-Pacific Branch

By Jiao Pei

Yesterday, Electricité de France (EDF) announced the establishment of its Asia-Pacific branch in Beijing.

"We chose Beijing as the site for our Asia-Pacific Branch primarily because we realized early on the strategic importance of China in the region, and we hope that by locating in Beijing, we can communicate and cooperate more efficiently with the government and our partners, in order to continue investing in China and to fulfill our commitment to China market," said Francois Roussely, Chairman and CEO of EDF.

Guests at the ceremony included Beijing vice mayor Liu Haiyan and Liu Zhenya, vice president of State Power Corp.

Liu Zhenya said "EDF has been operating in China for almost 20 years and has contributed greatly to the rapid development of the country's power sector and nuclear industry."

EDF ranked No. 124 in the 2000 *Fortune* 500 listing.

New Oriental Introduces ELLIS Teaching Software

By Xiao Rong

Chinese students of English can benefit from a series of English Teaching Multimedia Program in three months, as announced by New Oriental Education Group and America's ELLIS (English Language Learning Instructional System).

The two companies are targeting the advanced English training market by jointly promoting software, textbooks and teaching materials for Children's English, Adult English and Business English.

"With the leading role of New Oriental in China's English training market, and the advanced capability of ELLIS in developing high-quality English training products, we are confident that our strategic partnership will create a totally new English training model in China," said Yu Minhong, CEO of New Oriental Education Group, at the signing ceremony held at the Great Hall of the People last Tuesday.

The first class to use the teaching software is expected to begin in July, in either Beijing or Shanghai. New Oriental promised to offer the best computers for the courses, with tuition for a half year priced at 5,000 yuan, two or three times lower than the average for advanced English training courses.

FedEx Donates to Domestic Logistics

By Su Wei

FedEx Express announced a donation of 500,000 yuan to the UIBE-DTW Logistics Research Center at the opening ceremony of the Contemporary Logistics Development Seminar 2002 early this week.

Eddy Chan, regional vice president, FedEx China and Mid Pacific Region, said the donation is a new mark in the company's cooperation with Chinese logistic development. "We will know how our partner is helping China, not in an empty sense," says Chan.

According to Chan, the donation will be used as FedEx Logistic Fund under the center. "Deeper and more systematic research is to be carried out and more logistic programs are to be set," says Chan.

Domestic entrepreneurs in the logistic industry, teachers and students from the university attended the two-day seminar, hearing lectures by exporters such as Ng Shu Ming, head of Operation Management Group, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and international senior logistic management personnel such as Dennice Wilson, vice president of FedEx Asia Pacific's Supply Chain Solution.

Realnames to Shut Down

By Yang Xiao

Realnames, Microsoft's partner that provides easy to find name services for Internet Explorer, will shut down on June 28.

Microsoft announced recently that as Realnames refuses to pay back \$25 million it owes the company, Microsoft will no longer support Realnames.

The case is already influencing the Chinese keyword service market. China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC) is a non-profit organization that runs Realnames' Chinese market business.

Although CNNIC released a statement on its website on May 24, saying the Realnames case would not influence CNNIC's services in the Chinese market, analysts say customers are likely to shift to its rival, 3721.com.

3721.com is a private company possessing advanced technology for Chinese keyword service. 3721's service is more of a combination of direct navigation and directory search. In China and Korea, keyword services are dominated by local providers such as 3721 and Netpia, despite a lack of Microsoft IE browser support for these companies.

"3721 currently supports over 25 million Chinese keyword searches every day", says Karen Liu, a senior executive at 3721.

HOME APPLIANCE

One Million Salary Is Not Enough

Changhong badly needs thorough reforms in order to realize its plans or just to survive

By Yang Xiao

Ni Runfeng, CEO of China's biggest TV manufacturer Changhong, came to Beijing to attend the recent High-tech Expo. He brought with him not only his newly developed "fourth generation rear-projection TV," but a lot of big promises as well.

Changhong was a military used factory before the 1980s. When reform and opening up began, Ni led the factory to produce TVs, and achieved no.1 status in the early 1990s. But as the number of TV manufacturers grew, competition for market share became increasingly bitter. Changhong was forced to slow its speed of development, but this was not enough to prevent it from delivering a string of loss incurred annual reports in the late 1990s, which eventually forced Ni to leave his office.

But now, maybe no one but Ni himself can save Changhong, and he returned with a new title "CEO" last year. He has retreated from his price-wars strategy, shifting his emphasis to hi-end rear-projection TVs. "Every middle class home should have such a TV in the living room." Ni has tried hard to promote this idea in his latest Beijing trip.

Changhong has already spent more than 300 million yuan (\$36 million) on producing lines of high-definition projection TVs, and has an annual capacity of 300,000 sets, Ni said.

The company plans to expand that capacity to 500,000 by the end of 2002 to boost profitability and help it



Ni Runfeng, CEO of Sichuan Changhong is mobbed at the press of his CBHT appearance

Photo by Jia Ting

achieve no less lofty a goal than becoming the top TV maker in the world, according to Ni.

Industry experts say profit margins for rear-projection TVs could be as high as 20 percent, while those on traditional cathode ray sets have been squeezed by the price wars in cities where televisions outnumber people.

Changhong now enjoys a 20 percent market share of

such TVs nationwide. Ni estimated that next year Changhong would produce five more million TVs than this year's 10 million to challenge the world's biggest TV manufacturer, Samsung, and would see a 100 billion yuan production value in 2010. Changhong will set up a production line in Guangdong Province to service the overseas market.

One insider analyzed that if Changhong were a private

company, Ni's plan would probably come true. As a typical state-owned company, however, Ni complained that there are so many powerful institutions interfering in Changhong's development. Managers cannot make final decisions, and instead have to wait for various government departments that are unfamiliar with the business. The result is that Changhong cannot make maneuver quickly. Meanwhile, managers

are relatively poorly paid, regardless of how hard they work, which dampens their creativity and passion.

"Changhong badly needs thorough reforms in order to realize its plans or just to survive," said Ni. According to insiders, Ni receives 1.2 million yuan as his annual salary. Apparently the reform of passing over one million salary is not enough to Ni and to the whole company.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Interview: Nortel Chief Predicts Competitiveness

By Xiao Rong

China will overtake America as the largest fixed-line telecom market in the next two months, according to Masood Tariq, senior vice president and Asia-Pacific president of Nortel Networks.

Tariq addressed the forum of World Top 500 CEOs and Heads of China's Leading Companies, held last Friday as part of the Beijing High-tech Expo. *Beijing Today* interviewed him after his speech.

Beijing Today: What kind of changes do you think the split up of China Telecom will bring to China's telecom market?

Tariq: So far, in the first half of 2002, we have actually seen a slow down in the telecom infrastructure build. ... I think it will take a few more months for people to review the plan, to look at what they need to do, in terms of the building of infrastructure. ... We will see that investment into the infrastructure will come back in the later part of this year and then

of course into next year.

The key thing is that the split is good for China, because there will be more capabilities and better networks to be built, which will improve competitiveness. I think in the long term the operators will be looking forward to new capabilities and new equipment. And the more important thing is, it's good for consumers.

Beijing Today: Comparing fixed-line business and mobile business, which is more important for Nortel Networks? Are you confident that China will become the largest fixed-line market?

Tariq: Nortel is involved in all those key areas. We are key players in the area of wireless in all three technologies, like GSM, CDMA or UMTS. And again in the area of wire line, we are coming up with a very good product, which we call "Succession" and in China called "The next Generation Network".

I think China will become the largest fixed-line market in the world next

month or the month afterwards, because the fixed-line markets in U.S.A. are going down.

Beijing Today: Nortel has just announced that GDNT, one of your joint ventures in Guangdong, is becoming a major GSM based center for the Asia Pacific region. When will it become a global supplying center for Nortel?

Tariq: We are very pleased with our Guangdong Nortel joint venture. We have started now to export out of our joint ventures to some customers in Asia, and we can expect it to become a supplier for a global marketplace for Nortel.

China is becoming more significant for Nortel Networks business, and last year, China was the second largest market for Nortel after the U.S. market.

Beijing Today: How about the newly established Beijing R&D Center of Nortel last year, is it a sign that Nortel aims at developing it into a key technology base?

Tariq: We have two R&D centers

in China, one here in Beijing, and one joint venture in Guangdong. And also in Asia, we do our R&D work through our partners in India. So we definitely see lots of talents here, with very good expertise. We are expecting that the R&D centers will continue to expand in China.

Beijing Today: In your speech today, you said that operators in China need to create new services to generate revenues. How can they achieve this?

Tariq: China will be entering a new stage that has become an advanced telecommunication market. The operators will have to learn how to compete with each other, and they all have to offer newer services, newer capabilities, and how they can keep the customers they have already had and how to attract new customers. So there will be lots of marketing and lots of competitiveness in this area. That's how the evolution to the next stage of the telecom infrastructure will take place in China. It will be driven by the needs and competitiveness.

Baidu Vs. Zhaodaola: Love Without Result

By Harry Hu

Robin Li, president of leading Internet Chinese information search and delivery technology provider, Baidu.com, announced recently his negotiations with Zhaodaola had failed, but said he will continue to focus on the Chinese search engine market.

Zhaodaola (which means "found it!") closed the door on the talks, while Baidu, whose mission is to create value for Internet is developing well with a prospective future.

Li and his friend, Eric Xu founded Baidu.com in Silicon Valley in 1999. The name is derived from an ancient Chinese poem "Searching for her from among crowds over hundreds of times."

Li had planned to become

a researcher in computer science when he arrived in the US for the first time in 1991. However, he changed his mind and decided to enter the business world for his intern experience at Panasonic in 1993.

With a simple idea of "Helping people find the right information from the vast resources on the Internet easily, Li invented "Hyperlink Analysis" and became the sole holder of the patent.

He said, "Technology and people are the most valuable assets of our business." Li's former boss, the CTO of Infoseek, told the investor, "Li is among the top three in search engine technology" during the first round financing. However, Zhaodaola has not shown us the similar base in its history.



Photo by Yang Xiao

Based on "Hyperlink Analysis" and his understanding of the search engine market

and his experience at Dow Jones and Infoseek where Li had worked before, Baidu began to provide search engine product after four and a half months' research, one and a half months earlier than he had promised the investor.

In October 2001, Baidu began to provide Baidu Pay for Placement by Bidding (BPPB) service, a very typical service on the Internet according to Li. He said, "Internet is real-time, interactive and click based, unlike other media." And BPPB takes full advantage of this.

On the other side, Zhaodaola has not found a definite way to make revenues since inception. More people are familiar with Zhaodaola than with Baidu in China. But

when it comes to what they are doing, things are rather different.

Li pointed out, "Our understanding of market and the ability to master the market are our advantages over competitors." These two factors also lead to different results for Baidu and Zhaodaola. China's search engine market is growing rapidly and has matured enough to allow Baidu to focus on its search engine business. Unfortunately, Zhaodaola has not "zhaodao" (found) such a market for itself.

Finally, Li said, "Baidu has no plan to go public within two years, but Hong Kong GEM will be a possible choice when Baidu thinks about going public in the future."

Mayor Appreciates CEOs' Advice

By Sun Ming

Liu Qi, the mayor of Beijing, highly appraised the suggestions provided by his foreign advisors, most of whom are CEOs of multinationals, at the fourth annual meeting of the "International Business Leaders Advisory Council to the Mayor of Beijing" May 24 in Beijing.

Liu said relevant municipal departments should enforce these suggestions as soon as possible. "These suggestions are constructive, pertinent and exercisable," said Liu.

Liu made special note of the following suggestions:

Robert Benmosche, Chairman & CEO, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, called on Beijing to pay attention to laid-off workers. He suggested the Chinese government set up new laws on "priority recruitment" to care for the jobless.

Shigemitsu Miki, president of the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, recommend "studying the issuance of non-contact type IC Cards for all Olympic athletes and support personnel, as well as spectators at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, all of whom will be arriving from across the globe. People can use these Otype cards by simply holding them against sensors."

Yoichi Morishita, from Matsushita Electric, pointed out the three elements needed to make ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems) feasible in China are network infrastructure, ITS terminals for users and service providers.

Leaders Emphasize Info Administration

By Zhu Lin

CEOs of the Fortune Global 500 companies and leaders of the leading Chinese enterprises gathered at their forum May 24 at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Knowledge administration was the hot topic at the forum.

Heinrich v. Pierer, CEO of Siemens said, "The key to success is knowledge, and I believe Asia can enter the time of knowledge administration faster than other regions."

Wiaou-Sze Lien, vice president of HP & managing director of HP Asia Pacific, introduced the knowledge administration in his company.

Most of the speakers focused on the successful experiences of their companies, except for J.T. Wang, president of Acer Inc.

Wang said, "I hope all of you can learn from Acer's difficulties in the past."

By describing Acer's hard lessons from struggling in overseas markets, Wang's presentation proved to be one of the most useful case studies presented.

At the three day forum continued May 25-26, IT arena remained the main focus of discussion.

Internet Starts Again

By Jiang Zhong

"Chinese software industry sees its chance when the Internet bubble bursts." So said Wang Zhidong, general manager of Beijing Dianji Technology, in his address to the forum of CEOs of World Top 500 Multinational Companies and Chiefs of China's Leading Enterprises last Saturday.

"China came to the Internet five years or so later than the US and Europe, while its software industry was offered an equal chance to set the standards for the third wave of Internet industry," said Wang. The Chinese software industry should decide its future objective at this crucial stage of the international IT industry.

"The US offers the most operating systems and software development platforms; Europe boasts strength in enterprise management software; Japan supplies intricate digital devices with embedded software; and Indian talents supply their intelligence to software giants. But what is China's focus?"

Wang emphasized his point, typing four question marks behind China on his Powerpoint presentation. The answer, he says, is integration of software and Internet.

"However the Chinese software industry has to set up an interactive customer service system, so as to help customers benefit from the convenience of the Internet.

"The Chinese software industry should also improve its performance in the following respects: to import advanced foreign technologies and products; to focus on development of customized software; to make breakthroughs in developing new, profitable niches; and to cultivate leading suppliers that will set standards for China's future software industry," he said.

Media Boulevard Draws Big Bucks

By Zhang Ran

Xuanwu District hosted a signing ceremony for projects related to the Beijing International Media Boulevard (IMB) last Saturday.

Contracts for the seven IMB projects and other projects in Xuanwu District were signed with a total value of nearly six billion yuan.

The International News Center was the highlight. China Photo Service of Xinhua News Agency and Beijing Boxingyuan Real Estate Development Co. are cooperating to establish the center. One billion yuan will be invested. Construction will begin by the end of this year.

The center will be used for news gathering, reporting, Internet communication, photo



A sample sports car made by Zhu Runqiang of the Public Security Bureau of Hubei Province drew stares outside the Beijing International Exhibition Center. Zhu is hoping to find partners for production of the car. The Chinese characters on the car read: "Chinese-Made Benz".
Photo by Cui Hao

Car Revs Up Visitors

Government Not Playing Favorites in Software Selection

By Jiang Zhong

"Governmental procurement can effectively improve the national software industry's performance," Yu Cisheng, deputy director of the Beijing Science and Technology Committee, told the executive forum on China's software development May 24.

Yu said her government had started purchasing of software products since December 28, 2001. Testing was carried out during March and April this year. The municipal government will finally chose some domestic products.

"Foreign bidders complained that the government had set a barrier against them. That's not true. The software suit-

able for government routines must be reliable, utilitarian, convenient for use and learning, because the software's functions are confined to word processing here."

Yu insisted her government's purchase had not been biased in favor of the Chinese suppliers.

"The domestic software can fully meet the demands of the government, and are much cheaper.

"So they were chosen."

"The suggestion from the government is that cooperation between foreign and domestic suppliers in software research and development should be further enhanced."



The Beijing Glorious Land Agriculture Park, a modern agricultural base that uses advanced technologies and focuses on the biotech, information, agriculture and animal husbandry industries, has become one of the hot spots during the fifth China Beijing International Hi-tech Expo. Photo by Wang Yanyan

Opportunities Ahead for Non-governmental Business

By Jiang Zhong

"We must survive, so that we have hope," said Huang Hongsheng, president of Guangdong Skyworth Group, China's third largest TV manufacturer.

Addressing the forum of CEOs of World 500 Top Multinational Companies and Chiefs of China's Leading Enterprises May 25, Huang emphasized that, "Non-governmental enterprises have never obtained support, public funding or technical aid from the state. Most have died in the past years. Even the survivors are experiencing great troubles now."

Huang cited the example of the Chinese TV manufacturing industry.

"Non-governmental enterprises dominate the TV manufacturing industry. A commonly heard joke among them is that if you want to destroy somebody, give him a TV plant to run."

"However we have advantages over state-owned enterprises, in market competition experience, international recognition, production costs, distribution means, talents import system and communication with

overseas companies."

"After China's WTO entry, the government has adopted positive changes in the regulations related to non-governmental business. Barriers against us have been lowered. Despite the current hard times, we should survive to see a bright future."

Wu Daoxin, General Manager of Puhui Advisory Co. has supplied accounting aids to privately run enterprises for several years.

He warned, "Chinese non-governmental enterprises, especially the privately run enterprises, must improve their internal standard management system."

"Too much involvement of family members in management is a cause for financial crisis. Now 61% of these family-owned enterprises have reported the occurrence of problems in management. The real situation is even worse. I think 99.9% of them have trouble now."

"Now is the right time for economy experts to offer them valuable advice for setting up a standard management and accounting system."

Zhongguancun Scores

By Shan Jinliang

The Zhongguancun Science Park was one of the biggest winners in this year's "China Beijing International Hi-tech Expo (CBHT)", signing 40 projects with a contractual value of 8.5 billion yuan in the afternoon of May 25 alone.

Ouyang Zhongmo, president of Putian Corp., China's largest IT company, also took part. Putian will join in the construction of the western zone of the Zhongguancun Science Park by investing 1.85 billion yuan in building Putian Tower, where its headquarters will be.

One hundred contracts and letters of intentions with a total value of over 13 billion yuan have been signed during the Expo. Letters of intention for forty select projects were signed.

"Seventy-seven projects were signed during last year's Expo with a contracted value of 1.19 billion yuan," said Zhang Guilin, vice director of the Zhongguancun Science Park Management

Committee.

Vision Century Group from Singapore and Tsinghua University signed a contract to set up a joint venture - the Vision Century Hua Qing Real Estate Corp, to construct the Tsinghua Vision Century International Start-up Mansion with 400 million yuan.

Dauphin International Group, a British investing company, will jointly develop and construct the Dauphin International Business Park in the Fengtai sector of the Zhongguancun Science Park. Built with an initial investment of three billion yuan, the park will offer R&D, manufacturing, office, conference and service facilities.

Zhang said Dauphin International Group's move will have a strong effect and attract further investment.

"I see a better future for the park and the CBHT will play a more important role in attracting investment," Zhang said.



Leaders of The China Photo Service of the Xinhua News Agency and Beijing Boxingyuan Real Estate Development Co. Ltd. signing the contract to construct the International News Center in Xuanwu District

Photo by Zhuang Jian

Expats Donate Blood in Beijing



Miriam Clifford, a RH negative blood donor
Photo by Cui Hao

By Sun Ming

Thirty-four foreign volunteers gathered at the Beijing United Family Hospital & Clinics (BJU) on May 29 to donate their blood.

It was the first time in Beijing that foreigners have been especially called upon to donate their blood, which will be deposited at the Blood Center of the Beijing Red Cross, one of the sponsors of the activity.

According to BJU, the other sponsor, they hope to enrich

the types of blood stored at the Beijing Red Cross Center through the donations of foreigners.

"Fifteen percent of Caucasians have RH negative blood, while in China, only one in five hundred have that kind of blood," said Yang Meimei, Marketing Assistant at the hospital.

BJU, the first joint venture foreign hospital in China, mainly serves expats in Beijing.

The blood donors come from

more than ten countries including the US, Britain, Canada, Australia, Singapore, Germany, South Africa, Malaysia and Ireland. Besides the 34 foreigners, nine of the volunteers in the activity were Chinese.

"I know that RH negative blood is rare, especially in China. My blood type is RH negative and may be useful to some people someday," Miriam Clifford, a British journalist, told *Beijing Today*.

According to BJU, four of the 34 foreign volunteers have RH negative blood. Many volunteer foreigners still donated blood, even they'd known that their blood types are not RH negative.

Chloe Ovenstone, from South Africa, a teacher at the University of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, is one such volunteer. "This is the first time I've donated blood in China, but I've donated 38 times before in my life," said Ovenstone.

Gun Arrest Thwarts Suicide

By Sun Ming

A suspected criminal, who carried a fake pistol to Beijing, expressed his appreciation to policemen after he was informed that he is only suffering from hepatitis at Xuanwu Detention House on May 23.

Li Liang (pseudonym), 37, a desperate biology teacher from Gansu Province, intended to shoot himself in Beijing because he was convinced he had liver cancer.

"You have given me a second life," Li told the policemen, "My life will change completely starting now."

Li arrived in Beijing by train on May 12. He was arrested soon after walking out of the Beijing West Railway Station.

"He was in a hurry and looked flustered," said Wang Jian, a policeman in the Western Railway Station Police Office. "So our officers interrogated and examined him."

Li claimed that he was a teacher on a business trip to Beijing. But he stopped talking when policemen discovered a fake pistol and three bullets in his bag.

"The gun looked very real and very dangerous," said Wang. Li was quickly hauled off to the police station.

"I want to kill myself with the pistol," Li explained to policemen. "This is something I've been thinking about for a long time."

He said he came to Beijing to commit his final act so he could get one last look at a city he loves.

Li, a graduate of Gansu Agriculture University, has taught in a middle school for 15 years. According to Li, he contracted hepatitis more than ten years ago. For the past four years, he has suffered from insomnia and vertigo. "I became convinced that I had liver cancer after looking through some medical books," said Li.

After making the self-diagnosis, Li became more disconsolate and unsociable than before. "I didn't like communicating with my colleagues and students, and as a result, they also didn't like me."

Gradually Li came to the decision to kill himself, and unwittingly bought a fake pistol from an illegal dealer at the Lanzhou Railway Station two years ago.

After thinking it over for a long time, Li decided to end his life.

Two policemen were sent to Gansu to investigate Wang's case on May 17 and found that Wang basically had not lied.

On May 20, a policeman called Zhao Guoqing took Li to Beijing You'an Hospital to receive a medical checkup. According to the hospital's diagnosis, Li's symptoms are the result of hepatitis, not liver cancer.

Li remains in detention and the case is still under investigation.

Husband Protects Wife, Children with Own Life

By Sun Ming

Heroic father and husband Gao Fei saved his family at the cost of his own life by shielding his wife and two children from a fire that raged through their apartment in Sijiqing, Haidian District, on May 20.

"When the 28-year-old father was carried out, his two arms were still spread. He had left his wife and sons forever," said a witness.

Gao Fei's four-year-old son Gao Guoliang subsequently died on the way to the hospital. Gao's wife Sun Xiaomei, 26, and seven-year-old elder son, Gao Guodong, were rushed to the intensive care unit of the General Hospital of the Chinese People's Armed Police Force.

On May 25, Gao Guodong also died from burns sustained in the fire. Sun Xiaomei survived, despite burns on 50% of her body, 15% of which are third degree burns.

"This family's story is so sad," Zhang Quanzhong, Sun's cousin, told *Beijing Today*, "They led a very hard life in Beijing. Their exhaustion led to the fire."

The couple, originally from Shandong Province, made a living in Beijing by selling homemade snacks. They reg-

ularly worked more than ten hours a day. "The fire might have started by them not putting out a pot filled with oil before they went to bed," said Zhang.

According to Zhang, Gao first pushed his wife out from their 5-square-meter room through window. He was trying to pass his two children out the window to his wife when he was overcome by the smoke.

"They really cared about each other," said Zhang, "but even so, I'm amazed that Gao Fei was able to

save his family like that."

Zhang added Gao had also saved Sun eight years before from a gangster attempting to rape her. After

that event, they fell in love and got married.

Since news of this tragedy first came out, many Beijingers have gone to the hospital to donate money for Sun. To date, nearly 90,000 yuan of donations have been received, but that is still far from enough to cover her medical expenses.

"We have remitted a lot of her treatment fees," said Bai Xiaodong, the doctor in charge of Sun's care, "But she needs to receive several transplant operations that will cost at least 200,000 yuan."



Public Prosecutor Picks on Bigamist



Chen Jianli, Wang Bingquan, Yu Changfeng
Photo by Ji Chuanpai

By Jiang Zhong

A bigamy case has come under the media limelight because of the involvement of a public prosecutor.

Sun Yi, a senior lawyer at the Jingdu Lawyer Office, said, "This is clearly a case of bigamy. However, this is the first time since the issuance of the new Marriage Law that public prosecutors have gotten involved, which has drawn more attention to this case."

In October 1987, defendant Wang Bingquan married Yu Changfeng in Xin County, Henan Province. Yu bore a son the next year.

Co-defendant Chen Jianli entered the peaceful life of the three-member family in 1988, when she and Wang began living together. They moved to Beijing in March 1999, making a living by servicing home appliances.

In August 2001, Yu, who was suffering from a serious eye disease, was escorted to Beijing to find her husband. By hanging posters with Wang's picture on narrow alleys, Yu and her son found clues to

Wang's whereabouts.

Yu decided to sue Wang after he refused to fulfill his duties several times. According to the law, victims in bigamy cases must collect evidence themselves.

However, the wife's attempts to find evidence all met with failure, because Wang's neighbors refused to cooperate. She had to resort to the aid of the Xicheng District People's Court.

The court called on the Xicheng Public Security Bureau to collect evidence. The public prosecutor then filed a lawsuit against Wang and Chen on October 30, 2001, six months after the issuance of the new Marriage Law.

When the case was heard on May 23, 2002, Wang admitted his fault and expressed hope that the court could help him end his marriage. He said that Yu had hidden the fact that her family suffers from a hereditary eye disease, and claimed she had refused to sign a divorce agreement.

Yu countered that her eye problems were the result of extended malnutrition, a claim which her son supported.

Yu also sued her husband for forsaking his responsibilities to his family and asked for compensation for psychological damage. She said that Wang had sent her only 1,000 yuan in the past three years, which meant their son had to give up his schooling.

The court has yet to give its final ruling on the case.



Mega Melon For Sale

By Sun Ming

A 35-kilogram watermelon, dubbed the "King of Melons", on May 25 at a contest during the Daxing Watermelon Festival, will be auctioned off on Wangfujing Street on June 2.

The massive melon is the heaviest ever entered in the melon contest, which has been held for 15 years in Beijing. Nearly 200 other farmers from around the country took part in this year's event.

"Using my secret methods, a watermelon can grow two kilograms a day," said Song Baosen, the planter of the melon, who has won the contest for seven consecutive years.

He added, "The key factor influencing the size of a watermelon is growing conditions, such as humidity, temperature, light and nutrients, not variety."

Song's triumphant melons have included a 10-kilogram

watermelon in 1995, a 14.5-kilograms watermelon in 1996, a 34.17-kilogram-watermelon in 2000 and a 28-kilogram watermelon in 2001, which brought in 13,200 yuan at an auction last year on Wangfujing Street. That watermelon was subsequently recognized for a Guinness World Record as the most expensive melon in the world.

"I believe I'll come back with an even heavier melon next year," said Song.

Daredevil Issues Challenge to World's Tightrope Elite

By Sun Ming

Uyghur acrobat and tightrope walker Adil Hoxur sent out invitations to tightrope walkers all over the world from Beijing on May 26, requesting them to come to a rope-walking challenge on the Great Wall.

He said that he would attempt to set a Guinness World Record by walking across a 400-meter-high tightrope tied between two watchtowers of the Great Wall in October this year. The distance of the tightrope will be 2,008 meters.

Hoxur, "the Prince of High-wire Walking", just set a new Guinness World Record for time spent on an overhead wire cable without a safety harness.

He lived on a steel wire tied above Jinhai Lake in Pinggu district for 110 hours over 22 days from April 16 to May 7, breaking the previous record of 63 hours during 21 days set by Canadian-American Jay Cochran.

According to Hoxur, his October walk will be longest he has ever attempted. "I'm doing this as a way

of cheering for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing," he said.

Hoxur added he very much hopes Jay Cochran will attend the challenge and that the two are in contact.

The event is now in the preliminary planning stages because Hoxur has not yet filed an application with the China Cultural Relic Bureau. The bureau is in charge of granting permission for large-scale activities planned to be held at protected historic and cultural sites.

China's Largest Ivory Smuggling Case Reaches Court

By Ivy Zhang

The largest case of ivory smuggling ever in China continued to be heard at the Beijing No.2 Intermediate Court this Monday and Tuesday. The case involves 12 defendants accused of smuggling nearly 14,000 kg of ivory worth around 500 million yuan.

The complicated nature of the case and the large number of peo-



Photo by Gao Zhihai

ple involved have made it long and drawn-out, and no conclusion has yet been reached.

According to the court, the Criminal Investigation Division of Beijing Customs received an anonymous call on March 22, 2001, informing them that someone was smuggling ivory by declaring the illegal goods as daily-use articles at customs.

Two days later, when Xin Zonghai and He Xianming were transporting some ivory, declared as powdered paint, to a warehouse located at Yuejin village in Fengtai district, they were caught at site by the police. Twenty elephant tusks worth a total of 5 million yuan were found.

Over 12,000 kg. of ivory worth approximately 400 million yuan was later discovered at the warehouse,

which Xin had rented. And a US-made 38mm Lorcin pistol was subsequently found in Xin's home.

The same day, Ma Qinglin, the buyer of the ivory, was apprehended at his home in Huying town, Fengtai district. Forty-five elephant tusks and 599 ivory carvings were uncovered.

Other suspects involved in the smuggling and purchase of ivory were arrested over the next month. Among them were Li Wei, who worked in the freight transport division of CAAC, and Lu Xiaowei, a staff member in the freight supervision division of the Beijing Entry-Exit Examination and Quarantine Bureau.

Xin Zonghai, 37, from Jiaohai city, Jilin province, was found to have been purchasing and selling the smuggled ivory directly since 1993.

Ma Qinglin had helped Xin turn the tusks into ivory products.

Xin told the court that he opened a restaurant in Jinsong, Chaoyang district, in 1993. There he came to know a man surnamed Li who works for a foreign corporation in Beijing.

"One day, Li asked me if I could help him to sell some tusks. That was my start in the ivory business," said Xin. Xin insisted that he just helped Li find a warehouse to store and sell the elephant tusks, and claimed he had no knowledge of how or where the tusks were obtained.

"Li paid me 10,000 yuan to 20,000 yuan every month. The amount depended on business. Sometimes I got 70,000 to 80,000 yuan a month," Xin said, "Li set a sale price for the African tusks of around 1,200 yuan per kilogram."

By Chen Ying

Grey Wolf, a bar on Zhenhua Road in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, took down a board next to its door that reads "No Japanese" this week. However, its emblem, a slash across a helmet used by the Japanese army in China during WWII, still hangs on its front door, below two other signs - "No Outside Food and Drinks" and "No Pets".

April 24, the bar put up a notice board by its door declaring it would not welcome Japanese customers. The policy followed Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's latest visits to Tokyo's Yasukuni War Shrine on April 21 and April 23, when he was joined by 88 members of the Diet.

These visits enraged many Chinese, including the owners of the Grey Wolf. They decided to show their disgust after talking it over on the evening of April 23.

The bar's northwest-style decoration and food have made it popular with foreigners, including Japanese, who filter in from some nearby Japanese restaurants.

The founders of the bar are all from northwest China. They have opened two Grey Wolf bars in Shenzhen, the first and less prosperous of which is located on Honggui Road. However, the board stating the ban was only put up at the bar on Zhenhua, leading some to accuse the owners of grandstanding.

A frequent customer and his girlfriend went to the bar one day after the board was put up. The bar manager Li Xiaodong had always assumed the man was from Hong Kong because of his fluent Chinese. To his surprise, the customer smiled and said he is Japanese when he saw the board.

Li asked him his nationality several times, and the man always gave the same answer. Li then told the man he could not enter the bar.

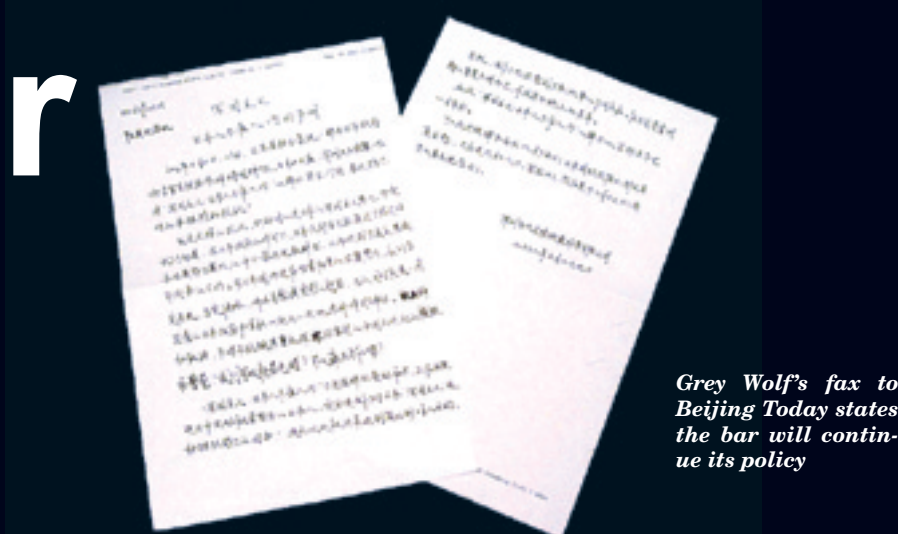
The bar's actions have become the subject of nationwide scrutiny. The response of common people to the story has been similar to an event of last year involving the actress Zhao Wei. One of the most famous actresses in China, Zhao Wei was widely reproached for a picture that appeared in the September 2001 issue of Fashion magazine, in which she was wearing a NYC-brand skirt with a pattern from a WWII-era Japanese military flag.

Zhao had to apologize in public several times for the gaff, which dealt a tangible blow to her career.

One month has been passed since the ban went into effect, and the bar has decided to take the board down temporarily. But, according to a fax the Grey Wolf's owners sent *Beijing Today*, they plan to put it up again on August 15 (the day the Japanese surrendered in 1945), September 18 (National Humiliation Day) and December 13 (Nanjing Massacre Day). Opinions follow:



The sign outside Grey Wolf reads: "Japanese can not enter."



Grey Wolf's fax to Beijing Today states the bar will continue its policy

No Dogs or Japanese Allowed

A Shenzhen bar closes its doors to Japanese

Views Vary

Li Xiaodong, manager of the Zhenhua Road Grey Wolf bar

This was a decision of all the bosses of the bar. We regret that many people think we're just trying to get attention. In the market economy, everyone wants to run businesses, so grandstanding can seem like the only way to get ahead. But that wasn't our intention.

This is our way to express our anger. Sober Chinese and most Japanese can understand what our goal is. Many Chinese still think Junichiro Koizumi's visit to the shrine only represented the government or an individual stance. But think twice about who elected him and the other members of government.

We always welcome Japanese who really like peace, make efforts to maintain Sino-Japanese relations and don't act like imperialists.

Feng Jingwei, lawyer, Beijing Haitao Law Firm

Every customer, no matter his/her nationality, has the right to be treated equally in accordance with the Law of Customer Right and Benefit Protection.

"National treatment" has become a popular term in China especially since the country entered the WTO at the end of last year. It means foreigners receive the same services as Chinese, except for those from countries that impose some limitations on Chinese people.

I still remember a case that happened a few years ago in Beijing. A lawyer sued a hotel because the directory for the hotel was only printed in Eng-

lish. Although the court didn't judge it as discrimination against Chinese, it shows that the court has a standard for defining what is discrimination against customers.

In this case, it's clearly a matter of discrimination against Japanese customers. As a public place, the bar should not refuse anyone who abides by the law and the bar's rules.

Wei Wenbiao, journalist, Nanfang Daily Newspaper

Grey Wolf's action is inappropriate, though it's being called patriotism.

First of all, it's wrong to combine political activity with economic activity. In economics, there are only merchants and customers, production and service providers and purchasers. It's normal practice for two hostile countries to continue economic relations and communications, especially of a non-governmental kind.

Merchants can express their political ideas and patriotism through other methods instead of through economic activities.

Furthermore, it's important to acknowledge the difference between a government and common people - they are not one and the same. Regular people shouldn't have to pay for their governments' actions. Refusing to let Japanese customers enter the bar effectively puts the responsibility of the Japanese government on the shoulders of Japanese customers, which is unfair.

A Japanese woman who requested anonymity

There are some common misunderstanding between Chinese and Japa-

nese. Japanese people swear that they never want to be involved in a war - it has even been put into the Japanese Constitution.

Japanese visit the shrine to express their sorrow over people who died in wars and to pray war does not happen again, not to glorify imperialists. In that, there is a cultural difference. In my mind, Chinese won't forgive villains even after their death.

I remember a Chinese person painted the monument in Hiroshima red last year. There was a little report about it in China that was full of praise for that person. I don't think it's right.

I also think Junichiro Koizumi shouldn't visit the shrine, since he represents the government. I admit that Japanese imperialists hurt Chinese deeply. But that was more than 50 years ago. It's unfair to blindly hate Japanese born after the Second World War.

I've lived in China for several years. Like other Japanese, I have found it is hard to make good friends with Chinese, because they seem full of hatred and doubt towards Japanese. I often feel frustrated.

If something like this happened to me, I would choose to leave the bar instead of suing the owner. I've gotten used to Chinese people's attitudes towards Japanese. But are they right?

By the way, there are many kinds of history textbooks in Japan. Schools have the right to decide which one they will choose. Only one of them distorts history and it's rarely used, as far as I know. Conscientious teachers will make the right decision.

Photos by Xu Wenge / Jackey

SOUND BITES

"The participants have held broad discussions on the theme of voluntary service in the new century: recognition, facilitation and promotion, and achieving positive results. With globalization and modern science, voluntary service is playing an important role in social resources, promoting person-to-person understanding and reducing social conflicts."

— **Long Yongtu, vice-minister of the Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, in the First International Conference on Voluntary Service**

"Morality and culture are going in the direction of vulgarity."

— **Sun Baohong, director of the Institute for Youth Research, regarding the hugely successful Taiwan teen soap opera, "Meteor Garden"**

"We must refocus our mission and our priorities, and new technologies must be put in place to support new and different operational practices. We must improve how we hire, manage and train our work force, collaborate with others and manage, analyze, share and protect our information."

— **FBI Director Robert Mueller**

"It was a mild recession, and mild recessions tend to be followed by mild recoveries."

— **Jay Mueller, an economist and portfolio manager at Strong Capital Management Inc., regarding preliminary Japanese data showing that industrial output rose 0.2 percent in April from the month before**

"We believe that they are living undetected among us and are prepared to participate in strategically planned terror attacks as dictated by their leaders,"

— **Manfred Klink, director of the Federal Criminal Office, who thinks that Osama bin Laden is most likely alive and that his al-Qaida network, far from being crushed, remains capable of carrying out terrorist attacks**

By Yang Jie / Chen Ying

Voices from the Web

An Internet surfer from 202.100.208.

You would never see a bar in Europe not allow a German to enter, but in China, Korea and some other Asian countries, that would be done to Japanese.

German and Japanese people have different attitudes about the tragedies of the Second World War. Most German acknowledge the suffering inflicted on other nations by the Nazis. On behalf of his people, the German premier has even knelt down to show sorrow and offer prayers for all the Jewish people who died in concentration camps and all the other victims in the war.

Have you ever seen any Japanese apologize for the invasion of China and other Asian nations? I, at least, haven't. What I've seen is recent Japanese premiers have gone to the national temple to memorialize the war criminals. It seems that the Japanese government and Japanese people would not like to say sorry for all the victims in the war. So far I haven't seen any Asian country accept an insincere apology from Japanese.

An Internet Surfer from 61.53.77.

I don't think the bar's action is good. After all, what Japan did doesn't represent ordinary Japanese people. The soldiers of the imperialist Japanese government committed the Nanjing Massacre, but times have changed. I hate those imperialists, but I think the regular people are innocent. American atomic bombs forced Japan to surrender, but also killed thousands of innocent people. We shouldn't be impolite to a Japanese customer if he just wants a drink.

Xiaolinzhu, an Internet Surfer from Sina.com

Only people who have lived in Japan can understand the bar's action. When I was in Tokyo, I saw at least three shops that hung signs that read "No Chinese". But I never heard any Chinese people protesting. I wrote a letter of protest to the head of the district I lived in, but the answer was the Japanese government can't interfere in citizens' freedom of speech. I had to pass the board everyday on the way to and from my dormitory. I'll never forget that humiliation.

Shrine Trip Sparks Anger

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi made a surprise visit to Tokyo's Yasukuni War Shrine, which honors 14 Class-A war criminals along with the 2.47 million Japanese who died in wars since the mid-19th century, in the Sunday morning of April 21.

Koizumi later told reporters from Kyodo News he will not visit the shrine again this August. He

also noted that he would not attend the Yasukuni Shrine's three-day spring peace festival, which begins Sunday afternoon.

Koizumi's visit to the shrine on August 13 last year, two days before the 56th anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II, drew strong protests and condemnation from neighboring countries.

Pressing Need to Address Child - Parent Gap

By Su Wei

What are the words parents most frequently say to their children? What do parents expect most from their kids? What do children want most from their parents?

The domestic magazine *Your Intimate Sister* has conducted a survey along these lines among 6,616 children in primary and middle schools and 5,912 parents in 18 municipalities and provinces such as Beijing, Shanghai, Jilin, Liaoning, Hebei, Henan, Sichuan, Yunnan, Guizhou, Fujian, Guangdong and Hubei.

Parents tend to be spare with praise

"Be good!" "Study hard!" "Good for nothing!" Almost all the surveyed parents admit that they often say such things to their children.

The phrase "be good" suggests that parents know more than and hold absolute authority over their kids. "I've been through much more than you" is a sentence frequently used by parents to reject their children's complaints.

"Study hard" is a mantra of many parents, who believe classroom learning is the ticket to knowledge.

They also think that high marks are the best proof of their children's mental abilities and are very important to their futures.

Although the phrase "good for nothing" is normally not meant to hurt, it still can have a negative impact on children.

Thirty-one percent of the children surveyed say they do not like it when their parents talk to them in commanding tones, and 18% complained their parents do not give them credit and look

down on or even insult them.

Just over 5% said their parents often threaten them with such invective as "I'm going to beat you to death!" and "Get out!"

Children expect praise from parents

Nearly 60% of the children surveyed say they are eager to have their parents acknowledge their accomplishments and praise them, and 55% hope their parents will not always compare them with their classmates or other kids.

The survey revealed that only 23% of children expect to have more play time and around 11% said they want more pocket money.

A child involved in the survey wrote a letter, "My mother and father always say 'look how good XXX is' - I really want to kill him!"

Another letter reads, "When I got a 90 on a test, higher than my last mark, they replied coldly, 'Only 90? What do you have to be happy about?'"

"When I show my father my drawings, he normally says, 'What are you doing wasting your

time on this worthless stuff?'"

"When I failed to get a high mark on a final exam as I promised I would, my mother sneered, 'I knew you couldn't do it.'"

Such statements appear in the letters of many children.

Zhong Jinping, the director of the magazine in Beijing, points out that some parents seem to fear that if their children do not succeed early in life, they will not be able to succeed once they have grown up.

"Children in negative environments are more likely not to fully realize their potential," says Zhong. He calls on parents to listen more carefully to their children and try to put themselves in their kids' shoes.

Parents narrow standards for friends

Sixty-five percent of parents say that it is most important that their children's friends get good marks in school, two times more than those who think it is most crucial that their children and their friends share common interests.

Meanwhile, 14% say they worry that their children may

make friends with bad eggs.

Parents' fixations with marks may create artificial separations between children, and lead to the ostracizing of students with high or low marks.

Furthermore, parents may not be sufficiently attuned to their children's social abilities. They may not consider that without friends, their kids' abilities to co-operate and interact with others may be hindered, resulting in loneliness and even psychological problems.

Children want more friends

Although 23% of the children surveyed said that when they have difficulties they first talk to their friends, many children have asked *Your Intimate Sister* to print their addresses and telephone numbers so they can make new friends.

Some children are confused by their parent's switch from encouraging them to play with friends when they were in kindergarten to pushing them away from their friends once they are in primary school.

According to Li Yunbai, a 12-year-old girl in a key primary

school in Beijing, many outside forces changed in her life when she entered the sixth grade, like her social circle and her parents' expectations and rules, such as not allowing her to spend time with one boy. She feels she has not changed at all, but her parents have.

Parents lack an understanding of psychology

Nearly 43% of the parents surveyed think a knowledge of psychology is important for improving studies, 26% say it is needed for getting on well with others, and 25% said it is a key to being happy.

These figures suggest that many parents may not really have much understanding of psychology, especially as it relates to their children.

Although children who are good at school may be relatively confident, many parents fail to realize that good marks are not the same as good health.

Few children ask questions about sex

Forty-six percent of the surveyed children say they learn

about sex from books versus 25% who ask their parents about sex. While nearly 70% of parents say they are unlikely to refuse to answer their children's questions, around 40% of those parents would just find some books for their children.

Clearly, sex remains a taboo subject in education, although sexual education classes have been made part of schools' curriculum.

Most teaching materials on the topic are out-of-date, and barely cover the physical changes of puberty. One child summed up the letters of many when he wrote, "Teachers only teach us what we already know."

The reason that few children ask their parents about sex may be that they are sensitive and shy. They will think such questions are inappropriate or only the kinds of things bad kids ask.

On the other hand, some parents may not directly answer their children's questions about sex because they want to give correct answers and not mislead their kids. This topic is clearly the source of lots of confusion.



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Taiwan's China Airlines Crashed



A victim's relative holds his loved one's photo on the Penghu Island.

By Feng Yihua

Relatives of the China Airlines plane crash victims started arriving in Taiwan from the Chinese mainland early this week.

Last Saturday, a China Airlines Boeing-747 en-route to Hong Kong crashed into the sea off Penghu less than half an hour after taking off from Taipei's Taoyuan Airport.

There were 206 passengers and 19 crew on board. Most of the passengers were from Taiwan, with nine passengers from the mainland, five from Hong Kong and Macau, one from Singapore, and one from Switzerland.

Local media reported on the day of the crash

that China Airlines had already sold the aircraft to a Thai carrier for \$1.5 million and the flight to Hong Kong was to have been its last service for China Airlines.

Chang Chia-juch, an official from the Taiwan Transportation Department, said, "This Boeing 747-200 is 22 years old, but has logged a total flying time of 64,800 hours and has no record of malfunctions."

A spokesman for Boeing said that the company had sent investigators to Taiwan to help with the investigation.

Searching for Bodies and Wreckage

Some 800 people as well as helicopters and boats have been mobilized to search for bodies and wreckage from the disaster.

"We will enlarge the scope of the search and divide the area of sea into small sections in order to carry out a more thorough search," said Lin Lingsan, a transport official of Taiwan, two days after the crash.

Up until yesterday, rescue workers had recovered the bodies of 92 victims, according to Xinhua.

Rescue workers have located the posi-

tion of the black boxes, but it is likely to be some time before they are recovered. Investigators will not be able to determine the cause of the crash until the black boxes are examined.

Help from mainland

On May 26, President Jiang Zemin expressed his deep concern over the accident.

"The compatriots across the Straits are like brothers and sisters," Jiang said. He urged related departments to do their best in the rescue and recovery work.

The Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS) also wrote to express their condolences for the victims of the air crash and extended sympathy and soli-



Rescue workers carry bodies of victims. According to the latest figures released, bodies of 92 victims have been recovered.

tude to their relatives in Taiwan, Hong Kong and the mainland.

Two salvage ships from China's mainland set off for the accident site to participate in the recovery operation on May 26.

Insurance experts in Taiwan calculated that primary compensation payouts would reach a total of about US \$100 million. If life insurance is included, the amount will be even larger. Compensation for each victim will be about US \$300,000.

Taiwan China Airlines' Fatal Crashes Since 1969

Taiwan China Airlines has the highest rate of air crashes in Asia. The latest accident deals a heavy blow to the already tarnished image of the carrier, which will face increased insurance premiums, huge compensation claims and slumping sales revenue.

Following is a summary of fatal crashes suffered by the airline since 1969:

- August 22, 1999, Flight CI642, a MD-11, flying from Bangkok with 300 passengers and 15 crew aboard, crash-landed at Hong Kong International Airport and overturned in flames during Typhoon Sam, killing three and injuring 200.

- February 16, 1998, an Airbus A300 flying from Bali, Indonesia, smashed into a row of houses near Taipei's Chiang Kai Shek International airport, killing 196 passengers and crew and six people on the ground.

- On April 26, 1994, an Airbus A300-600 crashed at Nagoya Airport in Japan, killing 264.

- On December 29, 1991, a Boeing 747-200 freighter crashed in Taipei county, northern Taiwan, killing five crew.

- In October 1989, a Boeing 737 hit a mountain in the eastern Taiwan county of Hualien killing 54 people.

- On February 16, 1986, a Boeing 737 crashed off Penghu, killing 13.

- On February 27, 1980, a Boeing 707 crash-landed in Manila, killing five.

- On September 11, 1979, a Boeing 707 crashed near Taipei, killing five.

- On November 20, 1971, a CVL plane crashed at sea off Penghu after a bomb planted by terrorists exploded, killing 25.

- On August 12, 1970, a YS-11 plane crashed during a storm in Taipei, killing 16.

- On January 2, 1969, a DC-3 crashed in Taitung, eastern Taiwan after being hit by turbulence, killing 24. (Xinhua)

Tintin's Continuing Adventures in China

A piracy case involving the ever-popular Tintin books has been cracked and a new compact edition of the series is on sale in China.

By Ivy Zhang

After the Tintin piracy case was cracked late last year, a low-price compact edition of the *Adventures of Tintin* goes on sale tomorrow, the International Children's Day.

Hai Fei, president of the China Children's Press & Publication Group (CCPH) said at a press conference to launch the book last Wednesday that the compact edition, priced at 10 yuan per book, "is easy to carry, lower priced, and will appeal to a wider range of readers."

The press conference, coinciding with the 95th anniversary of the author Hergé's birth in Belgium, was held jointly by CCPH and the Belgian publisher Editions Casterman at the Belgium Embassy.

General manager of CCPH Xiao Liyuan told *Beijing Today*, "The press conference served three purposes. First, we announced the cracking of the piracy case of Tintin Adventures; second, the new edition of Tintin Adventures was launched and third, we initiated the 'CCPH World Cultural Tour' campaign."

Tintin Piracy

"After one and a half year's efforts, we obtained the copyright of the *Adventures of Tintin* from the Belgian publisher in September 1999," Xiao said.

This is the second edition

of the classic CCPH has published here in the past year. Last May, CCPH partnered with the Belgian publisher Casterman to publish a full-color simplified Chinese edition of the *Adventures of Tintin*.

The response of the market was phenomenal, according to Xiao. "A total of 10,000 sets were sold out within the first week of the official launch."

"It came as quite a surprise. We had underestimated the market and the books were out of stock," she said. "In mid July, we had to publish a second print run of 10,000 to meet the demand."

"We had taken measures to prevent piracy beforehand," Xiao said, "We used a special size of paper for printing, which makes copying difficult. Everything is the same as the original books except for the language."

Despite the precautions, pirate copies of the new Tintin books soon appeared on the market.

"At the end of June, we received numerous calls complaining about the quality of the book," Xiao said. "People told us some of the dialogue bubbles overlapped with the pictures and others were empty, without any words."

"But that's impossible," Xiao said at the time. "All the pictures and text had been proofed seven or eight times prior to publication."

Then CCPH found dangdang.com and 8848.com, two local online retailers, were selling pirated editions of

the books. "Dangdang was cooperative and allowed us to take back all the Tintin books they had in stock. We examined them page by page and found they were all pirate copies."

The pirate edition resembled the official edition in paper and color quality, but was filled with printing errors. A total of 184 printing errors were found in the book *The Castafiore Emerald* and two pages were identical in the book *Seven Crystal Balls*, according to Xiao.

The complete set of 22 books sells for 500 yuan, while a pirate version could be bought for around 330 yuan. "The pirate editions grabbed our market share," Xiao said. "The printing date of the pirate editions was shown as early July while our second batch of books were released in mid July."

CCPH had planned to launch a promotional activity named Tintin Travels around China from June 1, 2001 to June 1, 2002. But the program was called off as a result of the piracy. "We had to stop and focus our efforts on the anti-piracy work, and to uphold the interests of the publisher, copyright owner as well as the author," said Xiao.

Tackling the pirates

CCPH reported the piracy case to the National Anti-Piracy and Anti-Pornography Office in July last year.

"Under the strong guidance

of the National Anti-Piracy and Anti-Pornography Office and the Ministry of Public Security, the case was successfully cracked on November 28, 2001," said Shi Zongyuan, minister of the State Press and Publishing Administration (SPPA) and director of the National Copyright, at the press conference last Wednesday.

"An illegal warehouse in Jun County, Henan province was raided by police and 72,500 copies of the pirated Tintin books worth 1.8 million yuan were confiscated. This is a significant victory in the fight against piracy," Shi said.

The piracy case is still being heard and under further investigations, according to Shi.

All sides have hailed the successful outcome of the piracy case. "Copyright law offenders in this case are now in jail, and the minister has delivered a clear message during the press conference - the law will be applied," said Claude Vincent, Economic & Commercial Counselor of the Belgian Embassy Trade Commission.

Vincent added, "On a wider point of view, piracy is a plague for the whole economic system and a handicap for the development of a sound entrepreneurial spirit. The SPPA is in charge of anti-piracy, and I am confident that they work efficiently in close cooperation with all the local authorities."



Hergé's *Adventures of Tintin* was officially launched last May. Two books tell about Tintin's adventures in China, the *Blue Lotus* (left) and *Tintin in Tibet*.



Shi Zongyuan (left), minister of the State Press and Publishing Administration and Johan Maricou (third from left), the Belgian Ambassador to China, attended the press conference this Wednesday.

"A baby's mind is like a camera. It takes whatever you give it, so I always have a sense of mission in this career."

"Although the time I'm together with my son is not long, the quality of care I give him is high."

— Jia Jun (left)



Did you have a good class, baby?



Both tears and laughter accompany the baby's growth

The classes in Jia's center always include creative activities



Photos by
Chen Shuyi



Being with my son
Photo provided by Jia Jun

Making a Career in Baby Care

By Zhu Lin

Jia Jun opened Oriental BabyCare Consulting Co. in March 1999, after seven-months of preparation. To date, some thirty thousand Beijing under-fours have attended the center.

Having her own son, now one year old, she feels an even deeper commitment to her work than before. Sometimes she suffers pangs of guilt, because she is too busy to spend as much time with him as she would like.

Solving a problem for parents

In 1998, Jia Jun was assistant manager of International Data Group China, earning \$2,000 per month. One of her colleagues once complained to her, "What a difficult thing it is raising a baby!" She told Jia she was always worried that she was not doing enough for her six-month old son. There were no professional baby training centers in Beijing at that time, and it suddenly struck Jia how important such a center was for young parents.

When she started in the business, she was confident that there was a big potential market for baby training in China. The problem was not one of cost, but of changing people's way of thinking. She and her colleagues often spent an hour talking on the phone with parents, telling them the importance of having professional baby training. "A large number of babies in China spend much of their time with grandparents before going to kindergarten," says Jia. She points out that on one hand, many grandparents do not know how to inspire a baby's potential and intelligence; on the other hand, when the baby spends more time with its grandparents than with its parents, it can lead to domestic troubles after the baby grows up.

At first, she planned to provide a "one yuan a day" service for parents. That is, the parents spend one yuan per day for the center to look after the baby, receiving extra services like free consulting, baby-care lectures and free magazines.

She planned to cater to no less than a thousand families, but soon found that most parents in 1999 didn't want to spend money on this kind of service, despite the price being very low. Before the center opened, Jia had already spent 600,000 yuan on setting it up, but initially she only had six families on her books.

For the first six months Oriental BabyCare lost money. Jia's husband had already started to help her with planning and budgeting, putting his own job aside. In August, he said to her after a visit to the center, "You will succeed for sure! With my years of experience in market prediction, I bet you will win!"

Just a month later, the center turned the corner, entering a new stage of profitability and social influence.

Helping children have a happy life

In the first half year, Jia often stood by the window of the classroom observing the classes. If the teacher met any problems, or she thought the class was not good, she would enter the classroom right away. "I often stood there for a whole morning or

a whole afternoon," recalled Jia, "At first I even didn't dare to go out of my office after the class was over, I was afraid the parents' would complain to me." After observing the classes for half a year, she finally felt able to relax.

"The teachers in the center are inspired to have more creativity than those at most kindergartens. I'm creating everyday," said Li Li, a music teacher at the center.

One of the teachers working at BabyCare had to change jobs twice in the past, just because she was pregnant. So when she became pregnant again, she didn't dare tell her boss about it. When Jia found out, she simply said congratulations to her. "Now I feel nothing can surpass the happiness of being a mother," said the teacher.

The first Oriental BabyCare Consulting was set up at the Beijing Olympic Center. Jia's company now has five centers in Beijing and another 31 partner baby-training centers throughout China.

Her deepest impression of the past three years, Jia says is the change in the parents way of thinking. In 1999, most parents did not realize the importance of giving their babies professional training. In 2000, the parents' focus is on how to educate their babies, especially how to develop their intelligence. In 2001, they frequently asked what kind of lessons they could give their children at home. This year, many are inquiring about whether the center can provide private care for their children.

Jia says the training provided by the center is effective, and claims that those who attend the center can focus for longer than other kids of the same age. They like to talk and cooperate with other children, and show an appropriate sensitivity to the environment.

After attending the center for two years, a girl went to the kindergarten. One of her classmates cried because she missed her mother. The girl went up to her and said, "Don't cry. Our parents have to work and don't have time to stay with us. They have to, you know. Let me keep you company, OK?"

Being with my son

Jia says sometimes when she comes back from a business trip, her son cannot recognize her for some time. As manager of a baby-training center, she pays particular attention to balancing his various needs. "I can't stay with him all day every day like a full-time mother, but if I play with him for an hour, the quality of time will be much higher than that spent with a common baby sitter," she says.

Once when she returned home late at night, she felt guilty for not having spoken to her son for the whole day. She kissed him on his face, and he woke up, smiling at her. Jia suddenly felt very happy. Since the baby is growing up in a harmonious environment, sometimes he even giggles in his dreams.

She tells how something of a miracle happened with her son. Just two days short of turning eight months, he suddenly refused to take any milk from Mum, weaning himself at just the right time.

Looking at her own son, Jia has more ambition and love to give the children at her center. Three years ago, at the press conference for the center's launch, Jia gave a speech, which she titled "I have a dream".

Now her dream is to popularize the concept of Parents as Teachers in China, since what she finally aims at doing is to help parents to teach their babies by themselves.



Design on the lacquered cover of the coffin
Photos by Xiong Feng



Epitaph on the stone tablet



Staff from the cultural relics research institute enter the middle chamber.

Photo by Wang Xiaochen

Ming Dynasty Eunuch's Tomb Discovered in University

By Miao Yajie / Wang Na

You never know what will be found next underneath this three thousand-year-old city. An ancient tomb was recently discovered under a playground at the Beijing Commercial and Business University, in the west of Beijing. The top of the tomb lies only 40 cm below the surface of the earth. An epitaph inscribed over the middle chamber identifies it as the burial place of a Ming Dynasty eunuch.

Bulldozer driver makes discovery

The northwest side of the playground, where the tomb was discovered, is currently being leveled to build a sports field. One evening earlier this month, as bulldozer driver Yan was leveling the earth, a loud crash told him the scoop had hit something solid. It is common to hit bricks or rocks during the clearing work, however when Yan got

down from the earthmover, what he saw was neither bricks nor rocks. To his surprise he found two thick flagstones.

One flagstone had been moved by the bulldozer and a narrow crevice was exposed. Yan looked down with a torch, it was quite deep, not like a septic tank. He shone his torch on one side, and saw two stone doors. It was an ancient tomb!

Yan immediately dialed 110, the emergency police hotline and asked for assistance. Experts from the Beijing Cultural Relics Research Institute arrived at the site the following day and began digging.

An over 400-year-old tomb

Archeologists found beside the chamber in the middle, there were another two side chambers. The three chambers descend from west to east. Since the flagstone of the middle chamber had been dislodged, excavation work started from there.

The pit is over three meters deep. Grey bricks neatly line the inside walls. A large square brick stands against the stone door of the chamber, on which there are two finely carved door rings. There are also fine designs on the lintel and the eaves. When the archeologists climbed down into the chamber, they found door was easily opened, and there were no signs of arrows or booby-traps that were commonly used to protect such tombs.

The burial chamber is about six square meters, with an arched roof. A bronze *lei*, an incense-burner shaped sacrificial utensil stands near the door. Two stone tablets are fastened to the *lei* with iron wires. The coffin, standing on a stone platform, is exquisite, although it has been broken.

The inscriptions on the tablets record the eunuch's brief biography. His surname was Zhao, and he was born during the reign of Emperor Zhengde (1506-1521) of the Ming Dynasty, and died in

the reign of Emperor Wanli (1573-1620). His ancestral home was Zhaozhou, Hebei province, and lived to the age of 75.

Ancient relics unearthed

Apart from the *lei*, a boccaro (red earthenware) teapot and some coins have been discovered at the site. Experts have taken these relics for further research. They say from the size of the chamber and the owner's status, there should be more sacrificial objects in the tomb. A hole found in the western chamber indicates the tomb was probably robbed at some time in the past.

The three chambers appear not to have been built at the same time. The chamber on the west is larger than the two others, and is divided into two sections. Excavation work has been completed in the past couple of days, and the Municipal Cultural Relics Bureau is expected to release more information about the find next week.

Cracks Appear All Along the Watchtower

By Miao Yajie / Zhang Guihan

Zhengyangmen, the ancient city gate just north of Qianmen, is one of the symbols of Beijing. Recently the structure was found to be in urgent need of repair. A large section of white cement decoration fell from the west side of the wall, and cracks have appeared on the east side. Director of the administrative office of Zhengyangmen, Ma Fazhu says restoration work needs to be done on the old building, preparation for which is currently under way.

Zhengyangmen and Qianmen were originally linked by fortifications. When the eight allied foreign forces invaded Beijing in 1900, the fortifications were partially destroyed. They were repaired in 1912, but then four years later, removed altogether to facilitate transportation, leaving both Qianmen and Zhengyangmen free-standing.

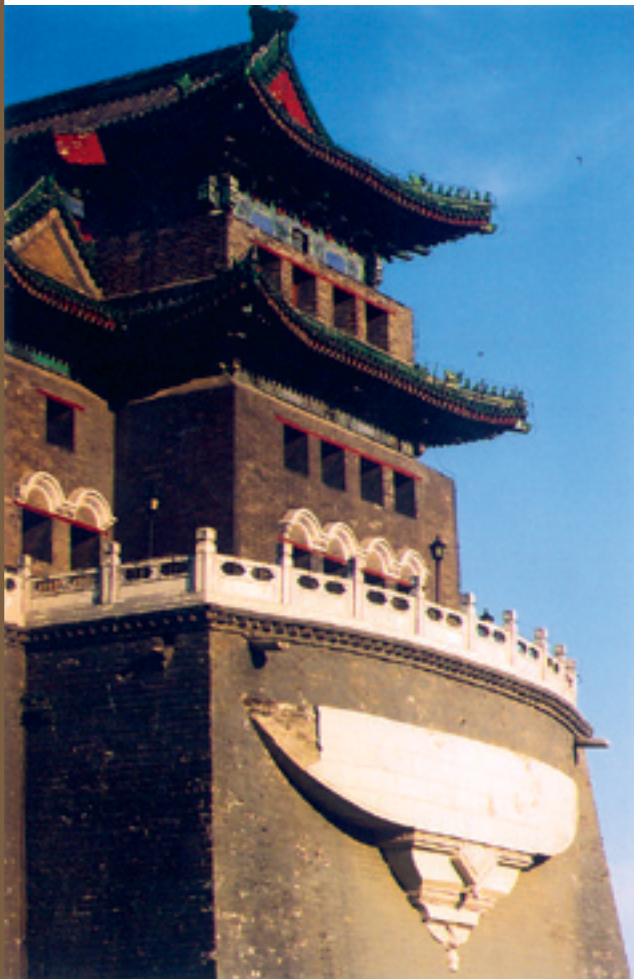
In 1916, a German architect adorned the east and west sides of the tower with white cement ornaments,

adding some European color to the tower.

From the foot of the western side, the section from which the decoration fell is quite obvious in the sunlight. The surface of the white deco was inlaid with large bricks, and finely engraved with smooth shapes and designs.

As to the reason for the damage, ancient buildings such as this need to be repaired over time, says Han Yang, director of the Beijing Ancient Architecture Research Institute. The balustrade on the tower is also about one hundred years old, and due for work to reinforce them.

According to the administrative office, the cement used for the deco could only be expected to last for eighty to one hundred years, so it is not surprising that it fell off. Plans for reconstruction are under intensive discussion and repair work is expected to start soon. The last time Zhengyangmen underwent repairs was in 1989, prior to its opening to the public in 1990.



The broken section of ornament on the west side of Zhengyangmen

Photo by Qu Liyan

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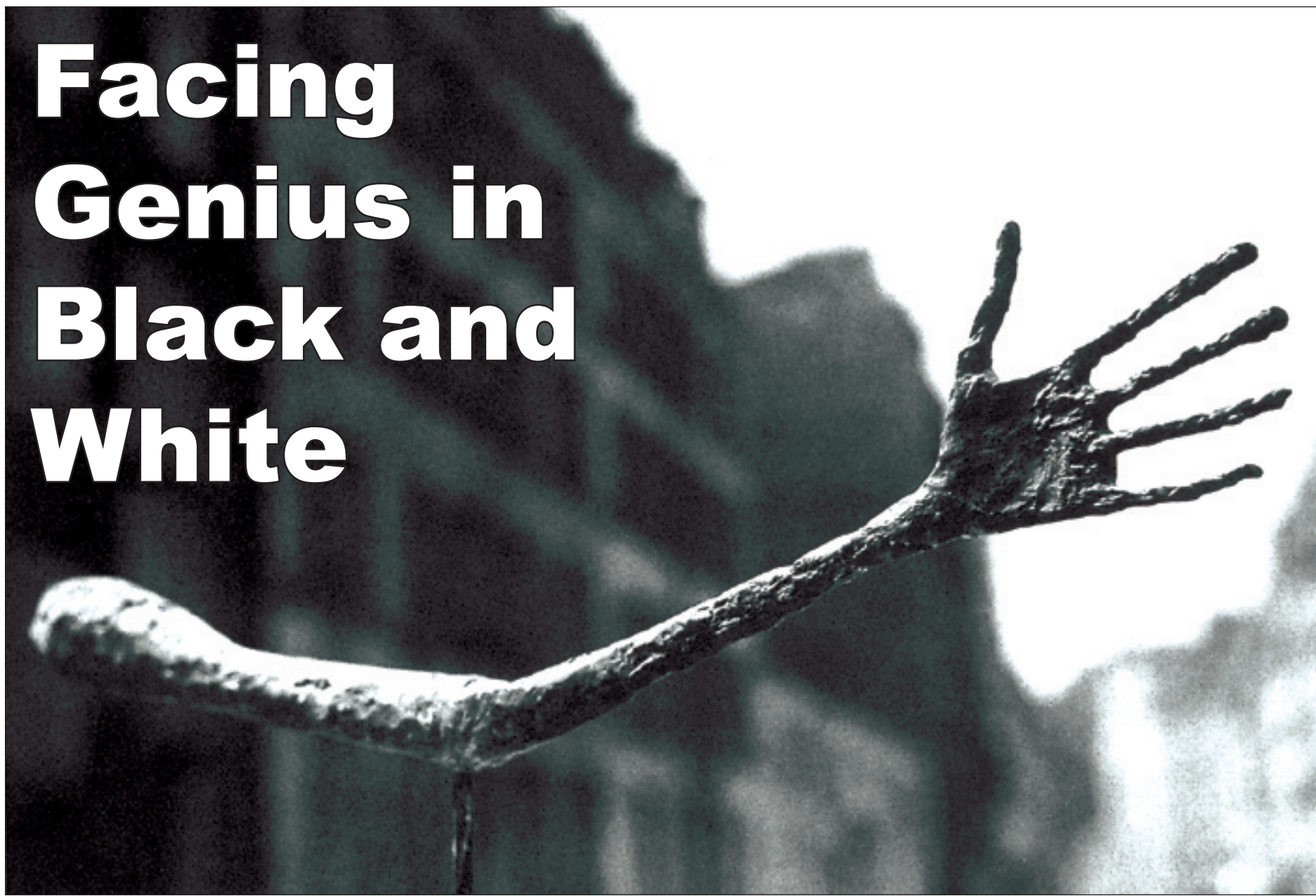
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Facing Genius in Black and White



By Zhang Huan

After touring 15 museums all over China during the past two years, the exhibition "Two Arts on a Jade Stone - Alberto Giacometti seen through the camera of Ernst Scheidegger" has opened at Beijing's Zhengyangmen Art Gallery.

The first traveling art exhibition from Switzerland to show in China, "Two Arts on a Jade Stone" introduces the life and works of Swiss sculptor and painter Alberto Giacometti, through the photos of Swiss photographer and long-time friend Ernst Scheidegger.

Scheidegger's black and white photographs capture Giacometti working in his creased coat and old scarf, hair disordered, as well as his gray, drawn-out, slender sculptures. "His nature, his work, and his thought deeply fascinated me, as they did other friends. I was one of the lucky people privileged to witness his life directly..." says Scheidegger in the exhibition's introduction.

The coordinator of the exhibition, Edition Voldemeer Zurich, has had 78 new prints made from Scheidegger's original negatives and mounted them on 36 large hanging scrolls, each measuring three meters in height and 1.3 meters in width. All the scrolls bear a caption in Chinese and extracts from related documents. Exhibition-goers are presented not only with a visual record of the life and works of Giacometti, but also information about two schools of modern western arts; sculpture and photography.

Where: Zhengyangmen Art Gallery, Tian'anmen Square

When: Till June 15



Swiss sculptor and painter Alberto Giacometti (Left)

Alberto Giacometti (1901-1966)

Born in Switzerland, Alberto Giacometti started painting at the age of five under the influence of his father, also a well-known painter. After studying painting, sculpture and drawing in Geneva, he settled in Paris in 1921, where he joined the Surrealist circle. He held his first solo show in 1932. After a falling out with Andres Breton, one of the principal figures of the circle, he gradually drifted

away from surrealism and returned to working from the model.

During the late 30s and early 40s, Giacometti lived a hermit's life and suffered many personal crises, in the course of which he destroyed many of his more conventional creations of the 20s and early 30s. Persistent attempts to find condensed and concentrated forms of expression led to his works shrinking to a diminutive size.

Ernst Scheidegger (1923-)

Ernst Scheidegger met and became friends with Giacometti in 1943. Scheidegger was one of only two or three photographers Giacometti allowed to document his life and works freely.

Over a period of 20 years, Scheidegger took hundreds of photographs of Giacometti. His works not only reproduce the life and creation of Giacometti, but also provide a new point of view to knowing the artist, and a record of some of his works.

By the end of World War II, Giacometti had found more definite forms of artistic expression, creating a series of larger works. He increasingly centered on three major themes: portraits both in oils and busts, and sculptures of walking man and standing woman. He won a number of major international awards, including the Grand Prize for Sculpture at the 1962 Venice Biennale, which brought him worldwide celebrity.



Flowers and Butterfly, Oil colour on linen, 2001, by Yi Bin

New Artistic Tries in the World of Breath

By Zhang Huan

"Breathing, to get rid of the stale and take in the fresh," is the title of the just concluded exhibition by husband and wife team Yi Bin and Zeng Hui.

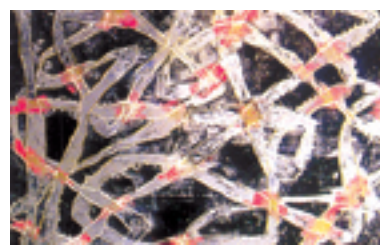
Yi Bin paints people, flowers, butterflies and aquatic animals, using pure and quiet colors to achieve a harmonious blend of reality and imagination. "I am not reproducing reality," he says, "My paintings are symbolic, connected with my thinking and living."

Using a variety of media such as pencils, oils, watercolors and acrylics, Yi tries to break traditional limitations to present historical significant work with a unique pictorial value.

For Zeng, a print artist, her works are a direct reflection of emotion and thought. "When people meet with beauty, they experience a feeling of being 'stung'. I am always stung by beauty," says Zeng.

She works by carving directly onto the woodblock, following her intuition, dispensing with the traditional practice of drawing a sketch first. Her use of one carved woodblock to create multiple color prints is also experimental, as the changing of colors and the sharply carved tracings of the prints create a vivid layered effect.

The joint exhibition was held at the New Millenium Art Gallery.



Calyx, Wood block, 2000, by Zeng Hui



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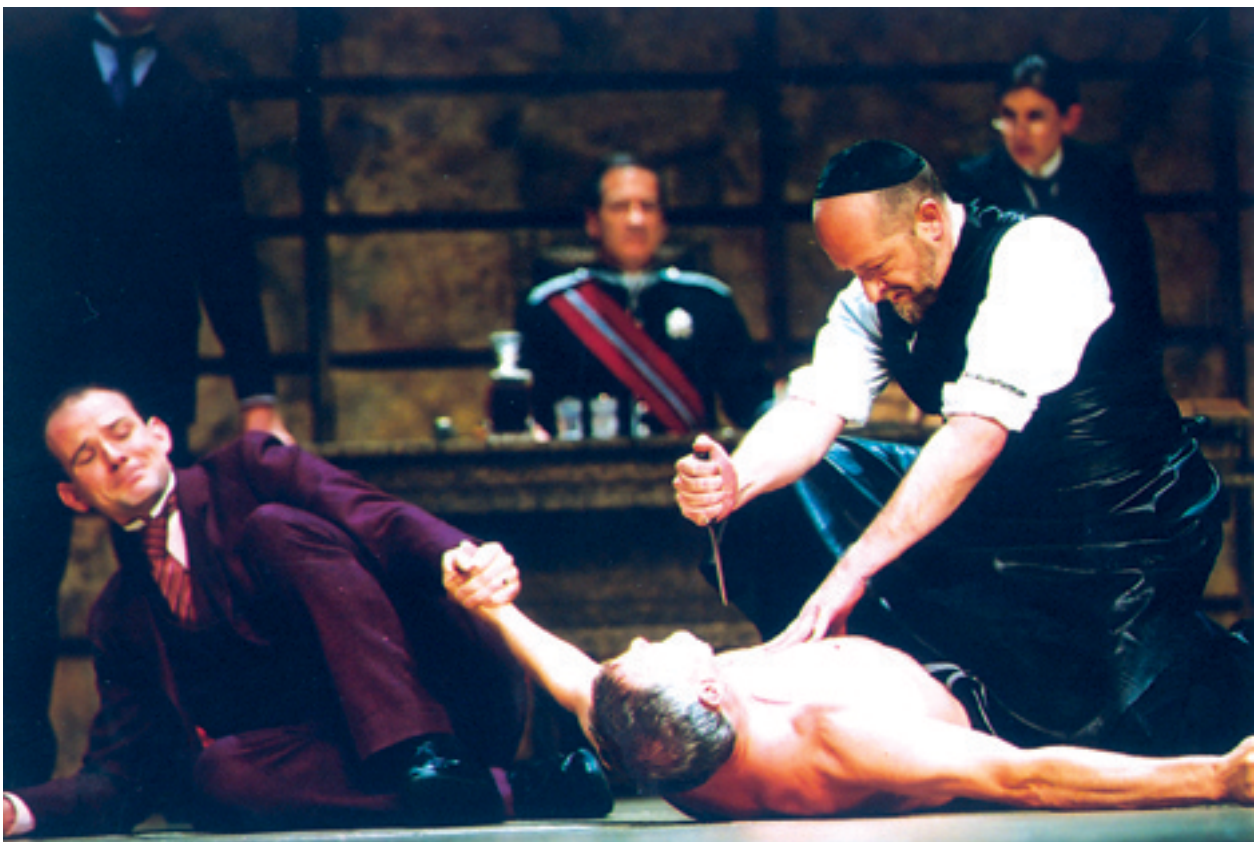
Dreaming of Wagner

By Zhu Lin
Tang Muhai, the renowned Chinese conductor has been named chief conductor of the Finnish National Opera. "I have a dream," Tang said at the press conference announcing the appointment, "to bring the Finnish National Opera to Beijing, performing Richard Wagner's Ring Cycle."
At the end of last year and early this year, the opera invited several top conductors to cooperate with them, among them Tang. He conducted Madam Butterfly as his debut, and his passion and comprehensive understanding of the music won him the admiration of members of the opera.
A secret ballot was conducted to choose the conductor with all members of the opera participating, and Tang won a clear majority of votes among the orchestra, choir and soloists. "I'm honored to be the chief conductor of one of the world's finest operas," said Tang, "The talents and facilities are first class. I'm so excited!"



History of Finnish National Opera

By Zhang Haihua
The Finnish National Opera is based in Helsinki, capital of Finland. Its predecessor is the Finnish Opera.
The home of the Finnish Opera, the Alexander Theatre, was destroyed during World War II. After numerous delays, a long-awaited new Opera House was finally completed and inaugurated in 1993.
The opening of the new Opera House in 1993 marked a milestone in the history of Finnish opera. Finally the Finnish National Opera had the facilities and modern technology necessary for such grand productions as Wagner's Ring Cycle.
The new Opera House is one of the world's great opera companies, and is especially renowned for its repertoire of Wagner's Ring Cycle.



'Merchant' Delivers the Goods

By Zhang Huan
Britain's Royal Shakespeare Company gave local audiences a taste of authentic Shakespeare last week with their production of 'The Merchant of Venice.' The superbly realized performances left the audience at Poly Theatre in no doubt as to the company's brilliance.
The RSC is among the most highly regarded interpreters of Shakespeare in the world, and their Merchant of Venice is a tour de force. The lines were delivered with such strong expressive force, without any kind of affectation, that even those who depended on the subtitles were swept away.
The Merchant of Venice is one of the most familiar Shakespeare plays to Chinese audiences, however it is often subject to dispute, especially regarding the negative



character of Shylock, a Jewish businessman, whom some see as a racist caricature. So the depiction of this character is the key of the play. Ian Bartholomew, who played Shylock said of his role, "This is a play that is really about what prejudice is, about the fear of the unknown, the terror of things that are different. In the end I would like Shylock to be neither condoned nor condemned, but to be understood."
His acting gave the best explanation for his words. Under his performance, Shylock is a shrewd but not treacherous businessman. He suffers discrimination because of his different faith and then holds a pre-cautious and vengeful attitude toward others. When his daughter betrays him, his despair, anguish and fragility give the often comic piece a strongly tragic flavor.

Martial Arts Meets Acrobatics

By Zhang Huan
Tai Chi is a mysterious concept, encompassing much more than just "shadow-boxing." A new show named Tai Chi, blending acrobatics and Chinese martial arts gives a new interpretation of the word.
The Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe's Tai Chi is a beautiful and breath-taking experience. A young man throws together a structure of more than 20 wooden benches, and then performs a headstand on top.
The costumes, lighting and music are all designed to evoke the spirit of Tai Chi. The costumes are full of sharp contrasts between black and white, yellow and red, which implies not conflict but harmony and beauty. The use of traditional Chinese musical instruments such as the Xun, Erhu and Pipa create an atmospheric aural backdrop, taking the audience back to ancient times.
Tai Chi is a multi-dimensional show, neither acrobatic, kung fu nor dance. "I would rather say that it is all of these, but it is much, much more," says Zhu Ziyi, vice president of China Performing Arts Agency, the production company behind Tai Chi.
Where: Tianqiao Theatre
When: June 5-7



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'My Tea House is My Work of Art'

By Li Dan

She spreads leaves over the floor in autumn. Every day, the room is filled with the scent of fresh flowers. Modern art works hang in harmony with antique Chinese furnishings.

"The art in each corner of the Green Tea House is created by Zhang Jin Er (or Jin R)," says a waitress. "Even our uniform designs are based on our different temperaments."

The menu is written on a Chinese fan. The calligraphy on scroll menus guides guests through *Strawberry Fields Forever*, *Just Mushrooms*, *Autumn Roast Eggplant*, *Nuts and Nuts & Nuts*.

"Each one is like a work of art and I don't even dare taste it," says a neighbor in the Green Tea House, located in the ginkgo tree-lined Sanlitun embassy area.

A classical musician and artist, owner and designer Jin R says the interior decoration changes with the seasons, occasions, and mood. "My teahouse is my work of art," she says.

Today, green curtains hang from ceiling to floor. Green apples indicate the spring mood. In winter, there are pink curtains and red apples. And when the dish arrives, on the side is an exquisite real leaf with my name on it. Stylish indeed.

Add: Green Tea House (Zi Yun Xuan 紫云轩), 53 Tayuancun (塔园村), Sanlitun Xiliujie, Chaoyang District. **Open:** 11am-11pm. **Tel:** 6468-5903.

Photos by Xiao Mei



Stylish Bar with Exciting Upstairs

By Salinda

Opened three weeks ago, the three-floor Suzie Wong Club has a fun theme. The proprietor points at a portrait on the wall.

"*The World of Suzie Wong* was a hot movie in the '60s," says Amy Zhao.

The popular 1961 flick starring Nancy Kwan was an east-meets-west romance between a struggling American artist and a beautiful Chinese prostitute. Despite the superficially decadent theme, the movie earned a certain acclaim as it ultimately celebrates the strength of true love.

"Suzie Wong, the lead, has Chinese virtues despite her employment," says Amy. "So I decided to take Suzie Wong as an example, and run a real Chinese style bar."

The first floor with a bar and sofa functions as an independent bar for walk-in customers. The second floor is where the major action takes place, with private

rooms with antique furniture and decorations. The third floor is for private parties.

"In fact, the bar is not as big as your imagination," says Gao Xing, the designer. "I just planed it based on the room's structural features."

"To make people feel a sense of space, we use the structure in a skillful way."

All the antiques were bought by the proprietor for high prices, says Wang Bin.

"He hopes guests can appreciate Chinese culture during their entertainment," he says.

The second floor is dyed by prepared Chinese ink and there's a stage tiled in a broken blue



The mysterious bar counter

and white porcelain mosaic. But the most distinguishing feature of the second floor is the box rooms.

"The box rooms provide a private and relaxed environment," says Gao Xing. "Some box rooms are designed a little like boudoirs of olden days. There is a Chinese traditional spinster's bed placed in the room."

"The guest can sip wines and chat while lying on the bed. The feeling is indescribable."

But the box room is not sealed. A transparent curtain ensures only a limited privacy.

To express the old beds' features, Mr. Gao Xing points at other kind of bed which looks like Chinese kang (炕), and says "it is called 'chuang ta' (床榻)." Then, I try to lay on the kang, feeling encircled by soft mattress.



A boudoir-like bed offers semi-privacy

No wonder the bar is called a "sleeping bar" by guests.

"We run this bar as a place to seek special bosom friends in special surroundings," says Amy. Tip: box rooms are limited and so to be sure, book in advance.

Add: Suzie Wong Club (苏茜黄), south of Chaoyang Park's west gate, above the "Jing Zhi Yu" Tea House (静之隅), Chaoyang District. **Tel:** 6593-6049. **Open:** 8pm-6am.



Photos by Li Shuzhuan

Frozen Yogurt Comes to Capital

By Salinda

The most popular yogurt is "parfait" (芭菲杯), frozen yogurt swirls in a tall glass with a choice of topping. It looks so pretty that you have to taste. "The banana split" (香蕉船) has frozen yogurt with fresh bananas, toppings and cream.

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Tel: 67685016

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Pictures by Liu Yang

Economic Apartments on the Rise

By Wang Dandan

Public bidding will be held for the contract to construct the Xihongmen economic apartments complex on June 25.

The bidding activity will be the first in Beijing to set a maximum per-square-meter sale price for economic apartments. Construction of the 700,000 square meter complex will begin by the end of this year.

The bottom line for bids for the contract is 1.765 billion yuan, and a maximum sale price of 2,600 yuan per square meter has been set.

The winning is likely to be the developer that offers the lowest sale prices. However, the winner company will be able to earn profits from the commercial property in the complex, which has a higher sale

price than the housing. The total areas of commercial properties will be 629,010 square meters.

As a result, low and middle-income families will be able to afford apartments in the Xihongmen area.

Unlike past projects, for which official procedures dragged on for a long time, all the relevant documents and city planning documents for the complex are ready.

Construction of the complex will help relieve the housing crunch in Chongwen and Xuanwu districts and will be the first project up for public bidding since the reform of land use rights in Beijing.

Many developers, including some from outside Beijing, have shown interest in the project and around 21 have expressed intention to submit bids.

Second-Hand Apartments Hold Hidden Risks

By Lei Qiping/Yan Ming



Legal Aid

their apartments, which can give them an easy way to get out from shouldering the remainder of their loans.

Are real estate agencies allowed to deal in not-completely-paid-off apartments, and are there risks in buying such apartments?

Real estate agency: More fully paid off apartments without property right certificates will be sold

One apartment owner wanted to sell his apartment, which is located near the north Fourth Ring Road, but he hadn't paid off his mortgage. So, each time we told potential buyers that they would have to pay off the rest of the original mortgage for the apartment, they walked away, said Zhao Ang, a real estate agent.

Lawyer: Risks are high the law offers no protection

Buyers take big risks when buying such apartments, because it is hard to determine what kind of contract was signed previously, who is responsible for what, and other things. For the most part, buyers of apartments not already paid off are not protected by law. These transactions require the involvement of developers and bank, and if one side does not agree, the deal can't go through. A buyer can reach a private agreement with an apartment owner, but those agreements have no legal backing and cannot be officially notified.

Bank: There are no loan transfer services in Beijing

According to a survey conducted by several local banks, no banks have started real-estate related loan transfer services. This means that an apartment owner cannot transfer the responsibility for his/her mortgage to the next owner. According to banks, if home owners want to sell their apartments, they are best off turning to a developer to pay the rest of their loans or negotiate with the next owners to pay off the remaining amount.

Developer: There are too many problems involved, and developers won't change owner names

A developer in the Wangjing area told our reporter that there have been cases of the first owner of an apartment wanting to change the name of the registered owner of the place to the next buyer. However, generally speaking, developers are not willing to make such changes, as they can affect their contracts with banks and registration forms at the Beijing Real Estate Bureau. The city Real Estate Bureau does not even have forms for that kind of registration transfer. So, buyers of these kinds of apartments can't register with the bureau, nor can they sell the apartments again later on.

Even though there are so many disadvantages in buying these kinds of apartments, they have already found a place in the real estate market. It is vital that the government address this kind of business by providing relevant services and setting appropriate regulations. At this point, it is not a good idea to buy these kinds of apartments because of the high risks involved.



City Plan Depicts Life in Suburbs, Work Downtown

By Wang Dandan

What will Beijing look like in the future? How will Beijing change? Where should Beijingers choose to buy houses?

The answers to all these questions can be found in a report from Huang Yan, Development Planning Commission of Beijing, which gives a clear picture of the future of the city's living environment at International Symposium on "The Impact of Modern Architecture on Urban Development" during China Beijing International Hi-tech Expo.

General introduction

According to the report, satellite towns encircle the city's downtown area. The planned city area extends from Dingfuzhuang in the east to Shijingshan in the west, and from the Qinghe River in the north to Nanyuan in the south, covering a total of 1,040 square kilometers. This area is and will remain Beijing's cultural, economic and political center.

The city is made up of the central area and suburban areas. The central area, defined as the zone within the Fourth Ring Road, covers around 324 square kilometers. The edge areas that surround the center are Beiyuan, Jiuxianqiao, Dongba, Dingfuzhuang, Fatou, Nanyuan, Fengtai, Shijingshan, Xiyuan and Qinghe.

Outside the edge areas are the satellite towns, which, because of their distance from downtown, are relatively independent.

There are 14 satellite towns: Tongzhou, Yizhuang, Huangcun, Liangxiang, Fangshan, Changxindian, Menchenzhen, Shahe, Changping, Yanqing, Huairou, Miyun, Pinggu and Shunyi.

Constructing small towns in suburban areas

The city planning map shows two green belts built to beautify the city. One is located between the downtown area and the ten edge areas and among the edge areas themselves.

This belt covers more than 240 square kilometers and is nearly completed. Grasses, flowers, trees and bushes have been planted in this man-made landscape, called a belt park. The Summer Palace, Chaoyang Park and several smaller parks are parts of this belt.

The second belt is planned to be wedged between the Fifth Ring Road and the Sixth Ring Road with an area of around 1,600 square kilometers.

It will serve as a green border between the city area and satellite towns. The belt has not been completed and is still under discussion.

According to Huang, the purpose of building these two belts is to prevent the compaction of city construction, and to improve the living environment of this rapidly-developing city.

250,000 people expected to move out of city

Future development in Beijing will shift from the city area to surrounding suburbs. This should re-

lieve traffic and population density pressure and facilitate easier city management.

According to the general plan, 250,000 citizens are expected to move out of Beijing's downtown areas by 2010.

By the middle of the 21st century, most people will live in suburbs, leaving a relatively small urban population.

At that time, Beijing will be able to increase its green areas and raise its living environment standard.

Building new homes in edge areas

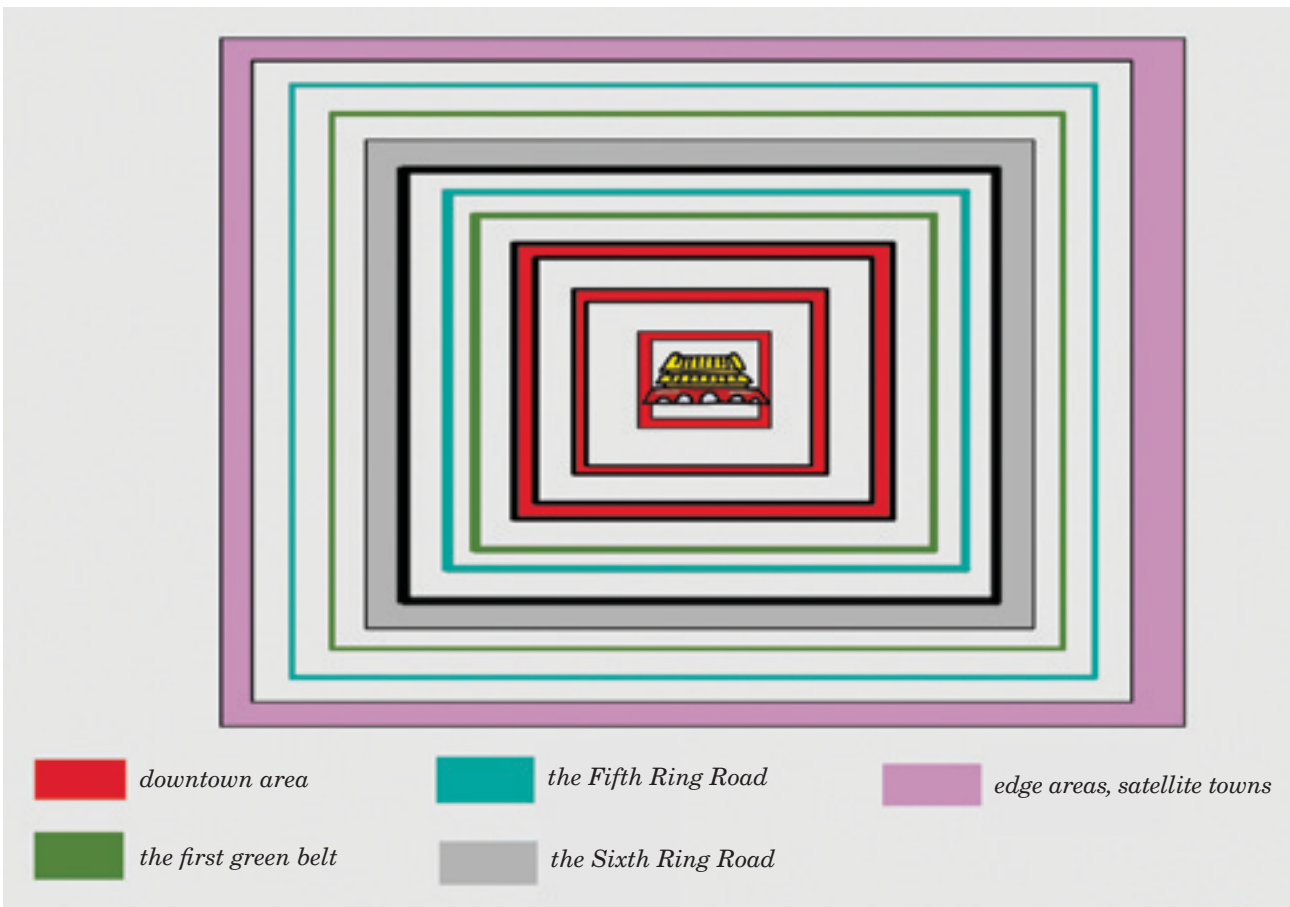
The focus of property complex construction shifted to outlying areas and satellite towns as early as 1990, with the implementation of the general city plan.

The Fourth Ring Road has been a focus of construction of property complexes, and some new complexes stand outside the Fourth Ring.

Living in suburbs and working in downtown

With the construction of edge areas and development of the transportation system, more and more citizens are moving to new houses in the suburbs.

In the near future, many Beijingers' mornings may go like this: leaving their forest-circled apartments, jumping into a light rail train, express public bus or their own cars, and arriving at work downtown within an hour.



Building Booming in Beijing

By Wang Dandan

Of the world's 225 largest construction contractors, 140 have begun operations in the China market. China has approved more than 120 Sino-foreign cooperative and jointly-operated construction design offices, said Mr. Jin, a senior engineer at the Ministry of Construction at the 2002 China International Forum of Construction Industries held on May 27th and 28th during the fifth China Beijing Hi-tech Exposition.

Foreign architects are behind the designs of some buildings that have become symbols of domestic cities and have designed over 10% of the residential houses on the market.

The entrance of top-level international architects will help improve overall construction and design standards in China, but will also lead to fierce competition between local construction companies and their foreign counterparts.

According to China's promises after entering the WTO, joint-venture construction companies will be administrated under the same policies as their domestic counterparts in three years. In five years, foreign investors will be allowed to establish wholly-owned construction companies.

Background

The production value of the construction market in China is reported to exceed 1 trillion yuan, the total amount of building products has reached 442.7 billion yuan.

Having entered the WTO, China will set many preferential policies that will open opportunities in and lead to the strengthening of the domestic construction market.

- US\$180 billion will be invested in infrastructure construction in Beijing by 2008.

- During the period of the Tenth-Five-Year-Plan, 28 projects railways are planned for construction in China's western regions with a total investment of around one hundred billion yuan.

- A total area of 2.7 billion square meters of housing is slated for construction in cities and towns nationwide during the Tenth Five-Year Plan.

- The average per capita living area in cities and towns will reach 22 cubic meters by 2005.

What's up with Elevator Fees?

Dear Lucy:

Apartment owners are required to pay elevator fees every year to their building's property management company, provided their building has elevators.

Elevator fees are not subject to discounts nor are they negotiable. Elevators are the shared property of all the residents of an apartment building.

Therefore, all residents of a building should be considered responsible for the building's elevators and for paying necessary fees.



By Hydie

Dear editor:

I live on the first floor of my building so I never use the elevators. Do I have to pay elevator fees, and if so, why?

Lucy

"HOUSING" welcomes your feedback: What kind of difficulties do you encounter when looking for housing in Beijing? What kind of information do you need? With what can we help you? Our e-mail: housing@ynet.com Tel: 6590-2522 Fax: 6590-2525

Performances

Peking Opera

Farewell My Concubine, Breaking the Bridge, Stealing Immortal Herbs, Havoc in the Palace of the Dragon, Mount Lianhuantao, Manor Hu, etc.

Where: Huguang Guild Hall, 3 Hufanglu, Xuanwu District. **When:** June 1-8, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 100-180 yuan, 200, 380 yuan VIP. **Tel:** 6351-8284.

Tai Chi

Combining Chinese acrobatics, kung fu, fashion, dance and music.

Where: Tianqiao Theater, 33 Beiwailu, Xuanwu District. **When:** June 5-7, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 80-500 yuan. **Tel:** 6303-0300.

Spanish State Dance Troupe

Where: Tianqiao Theater, 33 Beiwailu, Xuanwu District. **When:** May 30, 31, June 1, 7:30pm. **Tel:** 8528-2509/2510.

Other notes

Chinese Massage

Licensed Chinese traditional massage, at-home service from 4-10pm everyday. Contact Michael at 1390 1196209. **Fax:** 6778-9306.

Enrollment

Lido Kindergarten is accepting applications for enrollment for the 2002-3 school year for international children aged between 12 months and 6 years old.

Where: Lido Kindergarten Beijing, Jichanglu, Jiangtailu. **Tel:** 6437-6688 ext. 1640. **Fax:** 6437-6237. (Ms. Michelle Colley). **E-mail:** kindergarten@hilb.net.cn

Newly Opened Delivery Service

Goodies delivery service will bring food to your door from 30 of Beijing's favorite restaurants, including Outback Steak house, Makye Ame, Jazz Ya, and even Beijing duck. English service. **Open:** daily, 11am-11pm. **Charge:** 15 yuan per order. **Tel:** 6416-7676, 6416-7070.

Shangri-la Hotel

Business and travel guests will receive a 45% discount and free breakfast. Reservations required. **Where:** 29 Zizhuyuanlu, Haidian District. **When:** June 1-end of August. **Tel:** 6841-6824.

TMT Event



TMT Landi Asia Events

Hosted by Telecom, Media and Technology (TMT) Co. Topic: Franchise Panel. **When:** June 13. **Admission:** 80 yuan including two drinks. **Tel:** 6472-1888 ext. 8890/8828.

Hiking

The Silver Pagodas Backward Loop

Beijing Hikers have set some new rules about registering, cancellation, emergencies, pick up places and safety.

Where: Changping County, north of Beijing. 1.5 hour drive from Lido. **Walking time:** 4 hours. Degree of difficulty: 4. **Pick up:** 8:30am at the Lido outside Starbucks, 9am at Capital Paradise main gate. **Return:** 4-5pm.

Route: Start from a village. The trail loops around a holy mountain, passes a local shrine, goes through the valley of mercy, and then ascends to peak of the holy mountain. **How to join:** mail to bjhikers@yahoo.uk.co

Weather

Friday May 31 Cloudy to clear
Max: 29C. Min: 16C.

Saturday June 1
Clear
Max: 33C. Min: 18C.

Sunday June 2
Cloudy to clear
Max: 34C. Min: 19C.

Monday June 3
Clear to cloudy, scattered showers
Max: 32C. Min: 18C.

Tuesday June 4
Cloudy to clear
Max: 31C. Min: 18C.

Wednesday June 5
Clear to cloudy
Max: 33C. Min: 19C.

Thursday June 6
Clear to cloudy
Max: 33C. Min: 19C.

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to email us at bjtodayinfo @ ynet.com or call 65902520. By Priscilla / Lydia

Music



Trio Fibonacci—Canadian piano trio

Canadian Modern Music—Trio Fibonacci, Canadian Piano Trio

Julie-Anne Derome, violin; Gabriel Prynn, cello; Andre Ristic, piano. Composers: Nicolas Gilbert, Andre Villeneuve, Jean Lesage. **Where:** Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park. **When:** June 2, 2:30pm. **Tel:** 6559-8285.

Music at Get Lucky Bar

I Love Rock'n'roll Magazine Bash Night. **When:** June 1. Japanese People Record Mu-

sic Festival. **When:** June 7. Mn Record Music Festival **When:** June 8. **Admission:** 20-30 yuan. **Tel:** 6429-9109.

Electric Night

Where: Jia 55, Jia 55 Xingfuyicun, opposite the north gate of Gongti, Chaoyang District. **When:** May 31, 7pm. **Tel:** 6416-2463.

Back Club

DJs from Beijing, Australia. **Where:** Loft, 4 Gongtibeilu, Chaoyang District. **When:** Fridays & Saturdays. **Admission:** 50 yuan. **Tel:** 1301 1886112.



Exhibitions



Symbol of China—Zheya Painting Exhibition & Poetry and Art Discussion

Where: New Millennium Art Gallery, Xin 2, Beisanhuanlu, Chaoyang District. **When:** June 1-10, 9am-7pm. Opening reception: June 1, 2:30pm-7pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 8453-6193.



Painting by Liang Yan

Liang Yan Solo Exhibition

Liang Yan, a national first class artist, has been awarded five Gold Medals at the International Art Exhibition from 1993 to 1999. He specializes in painting portraits of mountain people. **Where:** West exhibition hall, Wan Fung Gallery, 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** June 1-12, 9am-5pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6523-3320.



Painting by Yin Kun

Activities

Enjoy Beijing Traditional Toys, Arts & Crafts

Display of a full array of marvelous old Beijing toys and unique arts and crafts rarely seen at stores or temples fairs. Free free to try the toys yourself. **Where:** Cha Jia Fu Teahouse, Houhai Area, opposite Madame Soong's Former Residence. **When:** June 1, 3-5pm. **Fee:** 30 yuan. **Tel:** 8462-2081, 1350 1035145.



Weekly Banquet Group

Learn to order and appreciate Shanghai cuisine. **When:** June 2, 12:30-2pm. **Fee:** 50-80 yuan according to dishes ordered. **Tel:** 8462-2081, 1350 1035145.

To Love Myself—New Series of Paintings by Yin Kun

More than 30 new oil paintings divided into three groups. His work focuses on individuals who seem separated and keep their distance from others. **Where:** East hall of Wan Fung Gallery. **When:** June 1-10, 9am-5pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6523-3320.



Fine Works of Chinese Engravings & Oil Paintings

More than 30 pieces by Jiang Dong, Song Yuanwen and Gao Rongsheng. More than 30 works of Xiao Hong, Feng Feng, Yu Xiaodong. **Where:** Qin Gallery, Huaweili, 1-1-E, north of Beijing Curio City, Chaoyang District. **When:** June 1-14. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 8779-0461, 8779-0458.



Dream of Color

Where: Melodic Art Gallery, 14 Jianwaidajie. **When:** June 1-30. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6515-8123.

Tian Wanrong Painting Exhibition

His original works are expressions of active research of new expressive forms and ongoing evolution. **Where:** Culture Office of Italian Embassy, 2 Sanlitun Dong'erjie, Chaoyang District. **When:** June 5-20, 9:30am-1pm, 2:30-5:30pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6532-2187.

Heilongjiang Children's Exhibition

Where: International Art Gallery, Wangfujing Dajie. **When:** May 31-June 5, 9am-6pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6513-3388 ext. 1207/8.

Tour Authentic Hutongs

Explore old alleyways and courtyard houses. An expert will guide you through hutongs in the Dongsishitiao area. **When:** June 2, 3-5pm. **Tel:** 6462-2081, 1350 1035145.



Map of the hutong tour

Beijing International Food & Wine Experience V

The fifth annual food and wine adventure offers opportunities to communicate with wine experts. During the two-day event, participants will be able to sample wines from around the world. Seminars and classes on table setting and flower arrangement will be offered. **Where:** Hilton Hotel. **When:** June 7-8. **Tel:** 6466-2288.

Movies

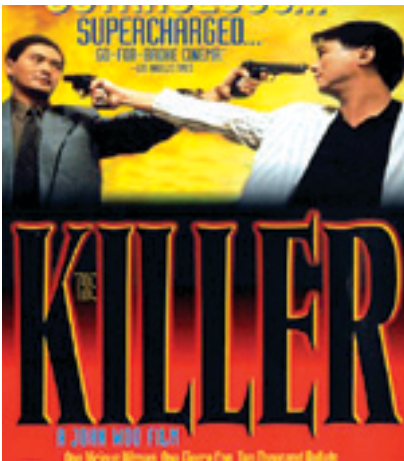


Chen Kun (right)

National Anthem

Directed by Wu Ziniu, starring He Zhengjun, Chen Kun, 2001, 110 minutes. This is a dramatization of the true story of the composer of China's national anthem. Set in the 1930's, as China struggled against Japanese occupation, the film follows the death-defying escapades of a group of young patriots whose suffering is eventually vindicated. English subtitles.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, Sino-Japanese Youth Exchange Center, Intl. Conference Hall, 1 km east of Lufthansa Center. **When:** June 7, 7pm. **Admission:** 50 yuan. **Tel:** 6461-5318/9



Thursday Movies

A one night double-feature. One is a Chinese movie with English subtitles, and the other is a big English movie.

The Killer, Hong Kong film with English subtitles. Directed by John Woo, starring Chow Yun-Fat, 1989. The movie that made Chow world-famous. The other movie is to be decided.

Where: 3 Xinzhongjie, Dongzhimeinwai Dajie, bus 24, 44, 106, 123 to Dong-

zhimen. **When:** June 6, 7:30-10:30pm. **Admission:** 30 yuan (booking on line also available). **Tel:** 6415-7332, 6416-9253.

Labri di biciclette (The Bicycle Thief)

The movie tells the story of an everyman's search for dignity. It's about a worker who must have a bike to work. When the bike is stolen, he searches around Rome to find it. Winner of the 1949 Oscar for Best Foreign Language Movie. Italian with English subtitles. **Where:** Cultural Office of Italian Embassy, 2 Sanlitun Dong'erjie. **When:** June 6, 7pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6532-2187.



"Film Noir"

Crime/gangster films and detective films. *Metropolis*, directed by Fritz Lang, starring Brigitte Helm, Alfred Abel, Gustav Frohlich, 1926. A very influential silent film by Lang (1890 - 1976), an Austrian-American film director.

Where: Space for Imagination Coffee Shop, 5 Xiwangzhuang, opposite the east gate of Qinghua University. **When:** June 1, 7pm. **Tel:** 6279-1280.



Metropolis

For Children's Day

Paint Brush Meeting of Well-known Calligraphers & Painters

Proceeds from sales of works by artists Ye Xue, Yu Danqing and Li Zheng will go to children who cannot afford education. The Japanese ambassador and his wife will come to buy paintings. Hong Kong artist Kent Yim will also join the activity. **Where:** 2F, Jianguo Garden Hotel, China Women Activity Center, Dong Changan Avenue, Dongcheng District. **When:** June 1-3. **Opening:** June 1, 2-5pm, artists will create works on-the-spot. **Tel:** 6530-1709. **E-mail:** btm@public.bta.net.cn

5th China International Friendship Culture Festival

Visit wild animals in the Badaling Zoo and plant 53 trees to commemorate the 53rd anniversary of the founding of the China Young Pioneer. Also includes a performance in Fangzhou Square in Badaling Zoo. **Transportation:** Free bus ride for every parent with a child. Meet in the front of Liaoning Hotel at Madian on June 1, 7:30am. Adults can take Train L677 from Xizhimen Rail Station at 7:46 am. **When:** June 1. **Tel:** 8208-7951, 6912-2591.

Sports

Latin Dance

June 1, 6pm, Latin lounge, 9:30pm, live Colombian band. June 2, 4-8pm, "Sunday School". June 3-8, 6pm, Latin lounge, 9pm live Colombian band. **Where:** Latinos Bar, South gate of Chaoyang Park. **Tel:** 6507-9898.

Cricket

Bring equipment if you want to play. The Australian Embassy has provided the Ducks with a cricket mat and kit. **Where:** International School of Beijing (ISB). **When:** June 2. **Tel:** 1367 1069342 (Ali).

FIFA World Cup

Club Football Center

Add: Red House Hotel, 10 Chunxiulu, Chaoyang District. **Tel:** 6415-0988.

Kerry Center

From May 31, a big screen will be set up in the Lobby Bar. A 20% discount on drinks will be offered during World Cup matches. Haitiang Chinese Restaurant gives free beer to dinner customers. **Add:** Kerry Center, 1 Guanghualu, Chaoyang District. **Tel:** 6561-8833.

Grand Hyatt Hotel

Private rooms, big screen TV, free flow of soft drink and local beers during games, delicious snacks. **Admission:** 200 yuan + 15% per person per game. (Minimum 10 people). **Add:** Beijing Oriental Plaza, 1 East Changan Ave-

nue. **Tel:** 8518-1234 ext. 6523/6532.

Shangri-La Hotel

"World Cup China Night" activity, including buffet, lucky draw and trivia games, will be held on June 8 during the match between China and Brazil. Chefs Hirayama (Japanese), Walter Lanfranchi (Italian) will make special dishes. **Where:** Lobby bar, Shangri-La Hotel. **When:** May 31-June 14. **Tel:** 6841-2211 ext. 2989.

Harbor Plaza

Live broadcasting of 2002 FIFA World Cup games. The first drink is free. Guess the result and win a chance to enter lucky draw. **Where:** The Pit Stop Formula 1 Grand Prix Pub, 8 Jiangtai Xilu, Chaoyang District. **When:** May 31, June 4, 8, 13, 30. **Tel:** 6436-2288 ext. 2331.

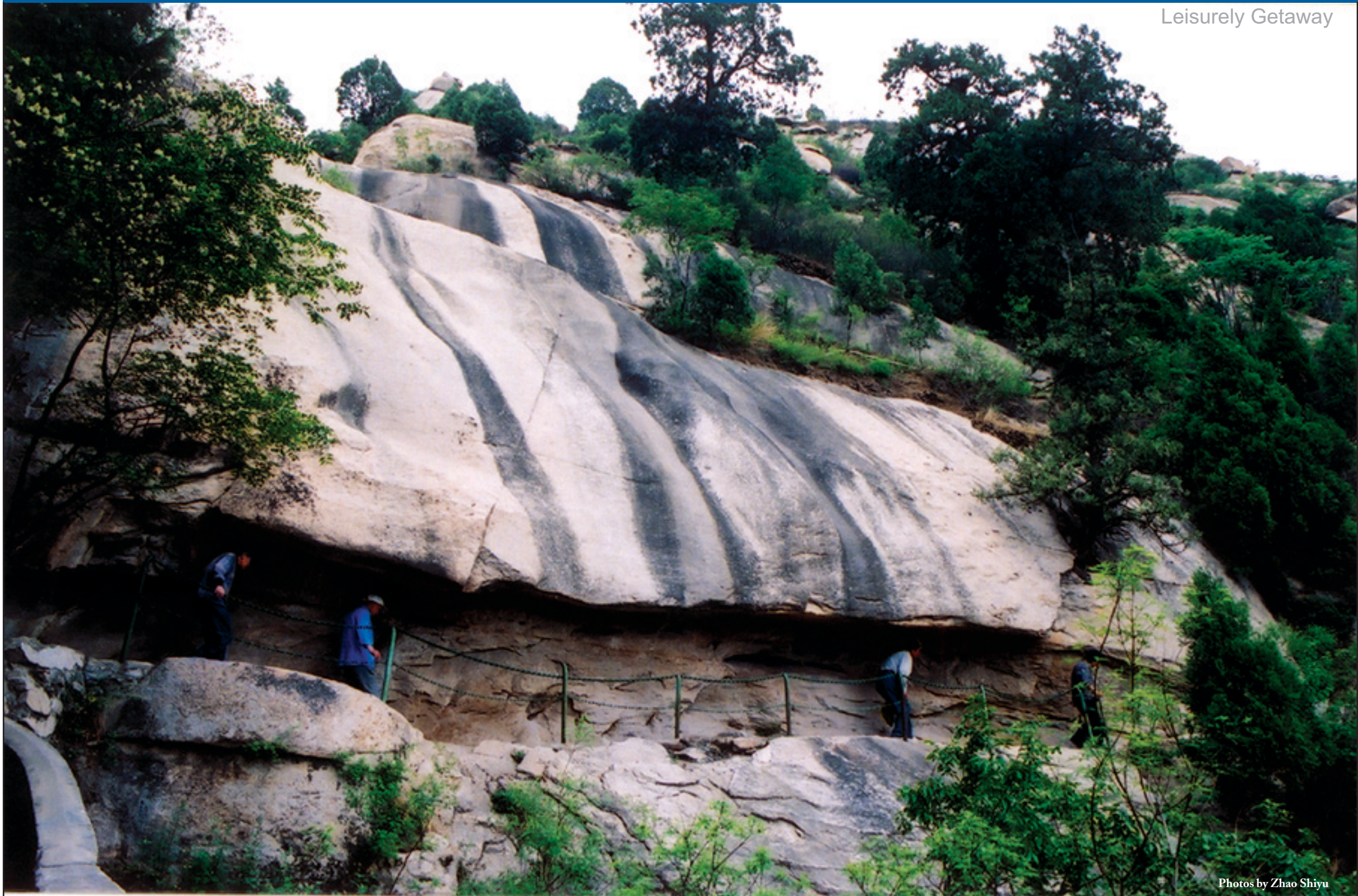
Lectures

Art Lecture

Artist Liu Dayu will talk about the ideas behind his exhibition, "Family Tree of Chinese Culture and History" (a collection of cynical works depicting China's past ups and downs of the China). **Where:** Schoeni Art Gallery, 904, Tower B, SOHO New Town, southeast of China World Trade Center. **When:** June 8, 3-5pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 8462-2081, 1350 1035145.

English Studying Lectures

For primary and high school students. Organized by the Beijing New Education Center. Lecturers are foreign and Chinese teachers. **Where:** 301#, Beijing Textile Party School, 17 Tuanjiehu Nanli, Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District, west gate of Tuanjiehu Park. **When:** Saturdays and Sundays from June 1 to 16, 1:30-3pm, 4-5:30pm everyday. **Tel:** 6504-6495 (Xiao Xian).



Photos by Zhao Shiyu

By Jiang Zhong

A stone Buddha statue carved in 489 AD was stolen from Feng Huang Ling (凤凰岭 Phoenix Mountain) in Bei An He, Hai Dian District in March 1998. Police searched the mountain but found no clue to its whereabouts.

Six months later, it was found in the basement of a local peasant. He had been attempting to transport it to a secret buyer.

The statue was taken away to the Chinese Stone Carving Museum at Bai Shi Qiao for protection.

The stone chamber built by Qing Dynasty Buddhist disciples to house the statue has been empty ever since. Tourists to Feng Huang Ling must satisfy their curiosity by studying pictures of the statue in a brochure issued by the administrator.

A guide instead leads tourists to Long Quan Si (龙泉寺 Dragon Spring Temple) one kilometer north to the stone chamber. A 1,000-year-old bridge, the trees and legends of the temple might soothe disappointed statuites.



Tomb pagoda of Wei Gongyang

Stone bridge, fresco

At the temple's entrance is a 20-meter bridge. Li Shuren, administrator of the temple, has stories.

"Liu Yong, an important court official of the Qing Dynasty, escorted Emperor Qianlong to the temple," he says.

"When they walked through the bridge they saw a snake swimming in the brook underneath. Liu Yong knelt down before the emperor and asked for a title for the snake.

"The emperor was enraged and ordered Liu to wait outside the temple. He returned to the bridge after offering incense to

Dream Art Workshop Celebrates Ancient Skills in Mountain Lair



Stone Buddhas at Xian Ren Cave

find a dragon claw floating where the snake had been found. Frightened, the emperor entitled the snake 'zhen long' (real dragon) and the temple 'long quan' (dragon spring) as well."

Li began studying painting at 15. But 31 years later in 1982, he quit painting to study Taoism. After retirement in 1998, he began his new life's work of restoring the Long Quan Temple. Students and friends at the Central Academy of Arts and Design followed him there and set to work.

They established a workshop and began to reproduce ancient paintings and calligraphy for temples and museums within and without China. Part of their earnings goes toward the ongoing restoration of Long Quan Si. A workshop fresco in Long Quan Si reveals secrets of the afterworld.

Trees, caves

As Li is talking to Beijing Today, suddenly 30 or so elderly tourists, mostly retired staff of the Xinhua News Agency, burst into the room. They rush in with expensive Japanese cameras clicking at anything that does not move in the temple, focusing especially on a couple of maiden-hair trees.

One comes up to Li and asks, "Which represents the husband, and which represents the wife?"

"I am not sure," says Li. "They both produce fruit."

"The guide says there is a husband and a wife maidenhair tree in the temple," says the Xinhua man.

"Never mind. They look the same," Li smiles.

Li shows them the ideal place in the temple courtyard to squeeze both trees into their viewfinders.

"The pine trees behind the main hall are even more interesting," he says and shows them

to the backyard.

There stands the tomb of Wei Gongyang, a philosopher of the Wei Dynasty (220-265). Wei's grandpa Wei Boyang was a famous Taoist of the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220). Wei Boyang devoted his life to trying to create an elixir of immortality.

Wei didn't continue with his grandpa's profession. He spent his whole life influencing the rich to better their way of life and give alms to the poor.

When he died, locals built the family temple (Long Quan Si to



Stone shoes before Wei's tomb

day) for him, and named it Lao Ye Miao (Temple of the Lord Wei) and the mountain (Feng Huang Ling today) Lao Ye Shan (Moun-



Stone buddhas at the last monk's cave

tain of Lord Wei).

Eight pine trees guard Wei's tomb pagoda. All have cracks in bark facing the pagoda, as if the owner of the tomb is showing his heart to the people.

Taoists and monks chose this mountain to seek isolation from the world. Hermit's caves can be found along steps carved on the rock walls. Stone Buddhas are found in these 2-3 square meter caves.

"The monks or Taoists confined themselves to the caves for years," says Li. "The locals supplied them with food regularly. The last monk in the cave died in 1940. The local people found the food placed for him three days

before had not been touched.

"The monk was still sitting quietly with his legs crossed," adds Li. "He didn't respond to people's calls. He had died some days earlier."

Li shows the senior journalists the cave of the last monk. Eight gods are carved on the walls. Channels and grooves have been carved to guide spring water into the cave.

"In the rainy season, water passing through the mountain echoed through the cave - amusement for the monks."

Thirsty mosquitoes prevent visitor from staying too long in the cave. The Lotus Seat (the seat for gods) was carved on a round rock outside. When monks finished their exercises in the caves, they would sit in the Lotus Seat to commune with the gods. The senior journalists all take a seat and snap pictures.

Students

Where the cave tour ends stands a workshop set up by Li's students and friends. With the owners' permission, a visit to the



The pinetree guarding Xian Ren Cave

workshop offers an unforgettable experience. Cai Qun and Su Zhichuan, owners of the workshop, invite inspection of their dazzling offices. Reproductions of ancient Buddhist paintings occupy the walls. The Eight Diagrams mosaic adorns the floor. A well has been dug in one corner. The owner offers tea made with spring water from the well.

Feng Huang Ling: Nie Ge Zhuang (聂各庄), Haidian District
Getting there: Bus 346 from the eastern entrance to the Summer Palace to the Feng Huang Ling
Contact: 62455933 (English service)
Admission: 25 yuan

Cultural Tour



Capital Splendor of Shenyang

By Feng Xiaoyuan

Three Qing emperors, Nurhachi (1559-1626), Huangtaiji (1592-1643) and Shunzhi (1638-1661), ruled from Shenyang before the dynasty moved its capital to Beijing in 1644. Known as "Gu Gong" - the same Chinese name for the Forbidden City in Beijing - the residence has a pure Manchu style.

Built in 1625, the layout consists of three courtyards on the same axis including the Chongzheng Hall, Fenghuang Tower and Qingning Palace.

Compared with the Forbidden City, the palace is higher and the

halls are lower. To the east, the emperor presided over grand ceremonies and high ministers gathered to discuss affairs of state. To the west stands a theater stage and Wenyuan Tower, which once housed the Qianlong Imperial Encyclopaedia.

The palace museum includes drawings, porcelain, carvings, sculptures, embroidery and painting, plus imperial relics like the sword used by Emperor Nurhachi and a knife and a chair of Emperor Huangtaiji.

Not far from this "Shenyang Forbidden City", the mausoleum of Huangtaiji and his empress is also worth visiting.



Photos by Feng Xiaoyuan